**Ideas for year 11s studying History A-Level next year**

**Idea 1**

Improve your understanding of the ‘big story’ of history. This year you have studies a thematic unit on British medicine. Now is a great time to build on that and go even further.

I would thoroughly recommend finding online/buying a copy of E.H. Gombrich’s ‘A Little History of the World’. It is written for young people, and should be easy to understand. As you read it note down anything you find interesting and want to find out more about.

You’ll get a nice list developing which will help with Tip 2. And, if you’re mega keen draw a timeline of the events Gomrich covers with as many pictures as your can spanning from 3100BC to 1945.

**Idea 2**

Find out some stuff you had no idea about but sounds really interesting. Make a list of 20 historical events/people/figures you want to find out more about which you have never studied before. This could be from your Gombrich list, or from general Googling.

Keep your list broad and make sure it covers lots of different time periods. Then for each one spend an hour creating an A4 mind map covering as much as you possibly can through internet research.

The CrashCourse channel on YouTube is often a great place to start, as is the brilliant timelines.tv

When doing this try and read a relevant article from historyextra.com File all your mind maps away, because you never know when you might need one.

**Idea 3**

Read a history book. History books for adults are often daunting. So, here’s a few 20th century focused books which are brilliant, but at under 300 pages are short enough that you won’t feel out of your depth:

*‘Death in Ten Minutes’* by Fern Riddell

*‘Very, Very, Very Dreadful: The Influenza pandemic of 1918’* by Albert Marrin

*Stalisland’* by Anna Funder

*‘Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History Nuclear Disaster’* by Svetlana Alexivich

The Penguin short monarch series is also great – each one gives an overview of a monarch’s reign. If reading history sounds daunting, don’t forget most books are available as audiobooks too and currently there are some really good deals and free for 30 days options.

**Idea 4**

Start listening to a history podcast. There are so many great podcasts out there, which give you the opportunity to expand your historical knowledge. If you’ve never listened to podcast they are audio programmes, and you will have an app on your phone. They are all free.

* The ‘You’re Dead to Me Podcast’ by Greg Jenner from Horrible Histories is awesome and light-hearted.
* A new one out is ‘Killing Time’ with Rebecca Rideal which is all to do with historical murder and death.
* The BBC’s ‘A History of the World in 100 Objects’ is also great.
* Dan Snow’s History Hit is also a winner with 20 minute episodes.

Try a few and see what you like the sound of. These could be great for building up your mind maps if you are following Idea 2.

**Idea 5**

Watch some documentaries. There is a aYoutube channel with loads of links to some great documentaries. Enjoy! And remember to try and be active when watching them and use them a source for making notes. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_ZhAiPE9mRS3fJOp6rGG6247GPEfiq2W>

**Idea 6**

Watch an historical film/TV series and then research how accurate it is. There are so many historical films out there. The key thing it to approach them critically. Once you have watch it draw up a table of ‘Aspects the Film Got Right’ and ‘Aspects the Film Got Wrong’.

A quick Google search of ‘How accurate is….?’ Will often be a good place to get you started. Think about the key characters though and do some further research – do they seem to be accurate?

Some recent films which are perfect for this are Mary Queen of Scots, Peterloo and Darkest Hour. Try to analyse them as you would a source. Why have the events of the film been portrayed in the way they have? What can’t it tell you about how a society remembers these events?

How do you make this meaningful?

**Here are some suggestions:**

**Week 1**: Buy Gomrich and make notes. Aim for 40 pages a day.

**Week 2 onwards for Monday – Friday:**

**AM**: Reading session. Aim for 1 hour. Put your phone in another room and read one of the books you ordered. This should be your main activity for the morning every weekday.

**PM**: Complete 1 hour research task using internet/podcast/documentary research. Mix it up through your week so you don’t get bored.

* Break from this slightly on Wednesday and in the AM session watch an historical film and in the PM session complete the accuracy table.
* At the weekend finish off any remaining pages of your book – finishing a book in a week will feel great. With the research tasks always try to set yourself a question to answer eg. Who were the Aztecs?

Remember this is just a suggestion. You could do more than this if you want, or less. Make sure you file anything you create into a History Lockdown folder – you never know when it might come in handy 😊