

History

Subject level A Level

Resource site www.wqe.ac.uk/tasteractivities

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Subject context History trains you to make sound judgements, think flexibly, express yourself clearly and is highly regarded as a preparation for wide range of university courses and careers.

History involves learning about people – how they interact, differing perspectives and interpretations, the motives and emotions that can tear people apart into rival factions or help them to work together for a common cause

In today's internet-based, information overloaded world, employers really appreciate someone who can sift through the evidence to find the vital information – a skill that history is better placed than any other subject to help you develop. History will train you to handle evidence to make informed decisions and think critically: to identify truth, and recognise myth, propaganda, and downright lies.

These activities are designed for people who have applied to study A-level History or who are considering it as one of their options.

Estimated time required to complete activity 3 hours

Submission instructions Bring this work to your first History lesson

Feedback Your work will help prepare you for our induction lessons and we will spend time discussing the themes exploring in this work.

Resources required

- Pen & Paper
- Internet access via a phone, tablet or computer
- What will I study in A-Level History at WQE? (in folder)
- 'How have humans reacted to pandemics?' from The Guardian, 29th April 2020 (link provided below)
- In Our Time: Man & Disease Podcast (in folder & link provided below)
- The Flu that killed 50 million, BBC Documentary on iplayer (link provided below)
- 'What can history tell us about epidemics?' in History Today: Volume 70, Issue 4 April 2020 (in folder & link provided below)

Assignment details

In order to help you understand history's relevance we would like you to investigate aspects of history related to the current pandemic.

You could write your answers, or take notes on the resources, to help you practise your history skills while in lockdown.

1) Read the following *Guardian* article on human reactions to historical pandemics:

https://www.theguardian.com/society/ng-interactive/2020/apr/29/how-humans-have-reacted-to-pandemics-through-history-a-visual-guide?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

- How far do you agree that history can help us understand the present?

2) Listen to the 'Man & Disease' podcast from the BBC *In Our Time* series:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00548m0>

- Before advanced science, what defences did humankind have?
- How much did the ancient Greeks understand of the root causes of disease - or did they simply explain it as an imbalance of the four humours that governed the body?
- What were the social and political consequences of The Black Death of 14th century Europe which wiped out a third of the population?
- How did the scientific breakthroughs of the 19th century - and the discovery of germ theory - alter people's perception of disease?
- Is it possible to live in a disease free society?
- How have we understood these afflictions, how have we fought against them and is it a war we can ever win?

3) Watch the following documentary on BBC iplayer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0blmn5l/the-flu-that-killed-50-million>

- What lessons can be learned from the 1918 Flu Pandemic that might be helpful in the current COVID-19 pandemic?

4) Read the following article from *History Today*:

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/head-head/what-can-history-tell-us-about-epidemics>

- How far do the historians agree about what history can tell us about epidemics?
- Whose argument do you find the most convincing? Why?

Additional Preparation:

When you enrol you will need to give a preference between the two A-level History Options that we offer so it would be worth reminding yourself about these using the *What will I study in A-Level History at WQE?* sheet.

This also has a range of suggestions for ways to prepare for A-level History on the second page.