



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

AQA HISTORY

Transition Task 2026



PURPOSE

The aim of this preparation work is to start to develop your knowledge of the two periods you will study during your A-Level; The Tudors, 1485-1603, and Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1919-1945.

TASKS

The History Team would like you to complete two tasks for your first History lesson in September. These have been designed to help bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level study:

Germany - complete the *Key Events* summary table in Section A of this booklet:

- Find out the date of each event
- Reduce each event into approximately 50 words
- Transform the event into an image / series of images
- Shade the thermometer 'how important' each event was
- Add a brief explanation of each event's importance around the thermometer

Resources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/germany/weimar-republic>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Weimar-Republic>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/history/collections/a-level-study-notes-weimar-nazi-germany-1918-1945>

Tudors – Complete the *tables* in Section B of this booklet:

- Research the key terms and write a simple definition in your own words
- Create a diagram of the different levels of aristocracy and represent each one as an image.
- Summarise religion in medieval times; reduce the information into 50 words for each heading.
- Explain the positives and potential criticisms of the church.

Resources:

<http://www.edwardianpromenade.com/resources/titles-and-orders-of-precedence/>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/medieval/religion/> (from belief and prayer)

<https://impact.history.ox.ac.uk/late-medieval-catholicism-introduction.html>

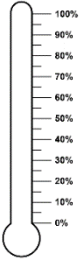
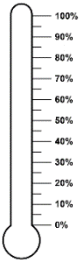
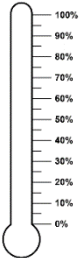
<https://pages.uoregon.edu/dluebke/Reformations441/DuffyEamonTheMass.pdf>

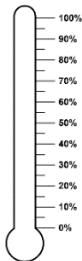
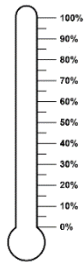
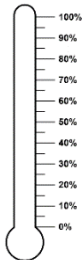
<https://www.bl.uk/the-middle-ages/articles/church-in-the-middle-ages-from-dedication-to-dissent#>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/cambridgeshire/hi/people_and_places/religion_and_ethics/newsid_8605000/8605860.stm

GERMANY

Event	Reduce into c. 30 words	Transform into image(s)	How important was this event, and why?
Kaiser Abdicates DATE:			100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0%
Weimar Constitution DATE:			100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0%
Treaty of Versailles DATE:			100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0%

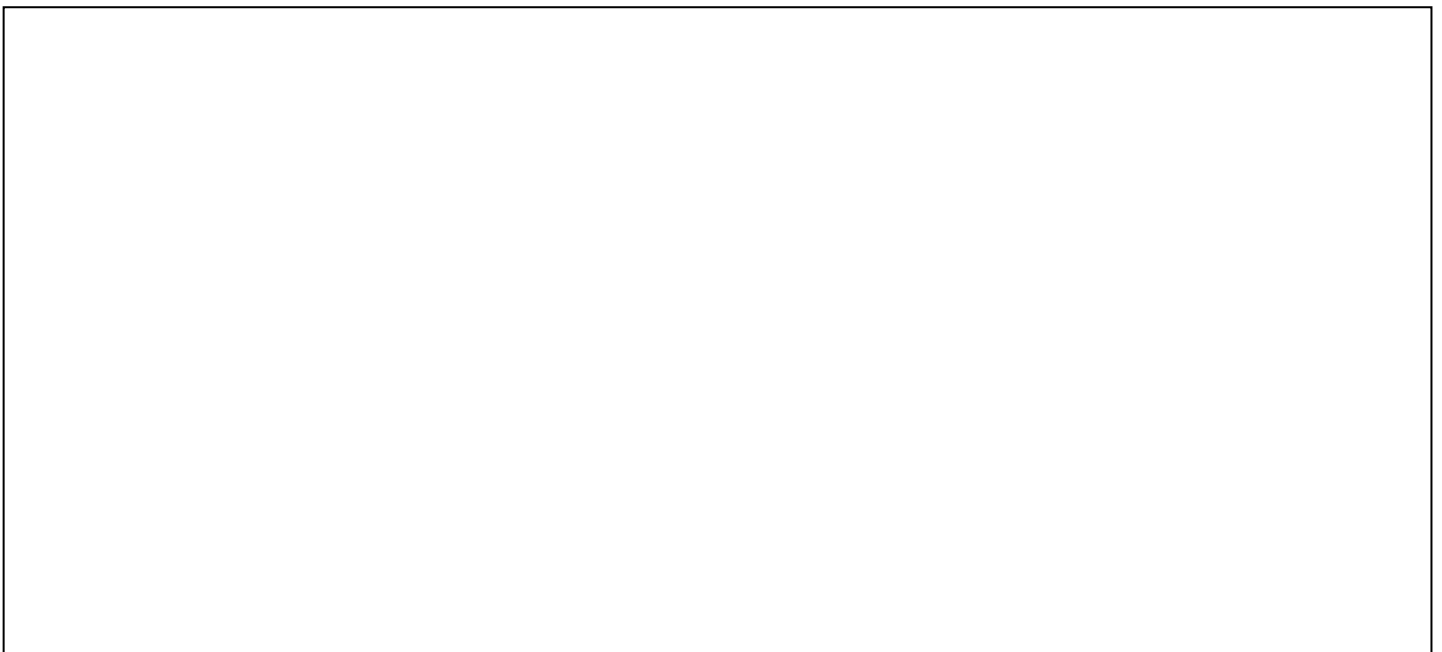
Event	Reduce into approximately 30 words	Transform into image(s)	How important was this event, and why?
Spartacist Uprising DATE:			
Kapp Putsch DATE:			
Munich Putsch DATE:			

Event	Reduce into approximately 30 words	Transform into image(s)	How important was this event, and why?
Hyperinflation DATE:			
Dawes Plan DATE:			
Wall Street Crash DATE:			

TUDORS

Key Term	Definition in approximately 15 words
Tudor Court	
Privy Council	
Feudal System	
Gentry	
The Great Chain of Being	
Humanism	
Secular	
Liturgy	
Mass	
Eucharist	
Laity	
Intercession	
Sacrament	
Religious Imagery	

2) Create a diagram showing the different levels of aristocracy in Tudor England. Represent each level as an image.



Preparing for A Level History



Do you want to get even further “ahead of the game” before starting the course in September?

Are you interested in learning more about how Adolf Hitler was able to come into power, and the actions he took as leader?

Are you interested in discovering how English society, culture, religion and power changed during the Tudor Period?

If so, then please see the pages below for actions you can take to further your interests, and prepare for Year 12 and Year 13:

1. **Preparing for the A Level Course** – start to explore the topics and their foundations that you will study throughout the A level course.
2. **Develop as a Historian** – general reading around/watching videos/listening to podcasts etc. to develop your historical knowledge and understanding.

The most successful A level historians possess three vital skills: firstly, a strong grasp of the content; secondly, the ability to think critically, analyse information and reach conclusions; thirdly, strong written communication skills.

This guide is designed to provide you with reading, watching and listening lists to help you gather important, background knowledge that will widen your knowledge of the two topics you will study over the upcoming two years.

Also, the podcasts present you with opportunities to hone your critical thinking skills by showing you how historians craft an argument using evidence and evaluations. When listening to the podcasts, you should decide whether you agree or disagree with the opinion(s) the historian is presenting, based on your knowledge of the facts.

Please collate your research, notes and any questions you have together in a folder. If you do go on to study this course with us in Year 12, you will be able to start by sharing your preparation and thinking with your teacher and other students in the class. Specifically, you will be asked to share the **three** most interesting pieces of information you have learned, **two** questions you are ready to ask and **one** thing you would like to know more about (you will need to make a note of these). We cannot wait to hear what you come up with!

THE PAGES BELOW WILL HELP GIVE YOU IDEAS FOR WHAT YOU CAN DO TO DEVELOP AS A HISTORIAN AND PREPARE FOR AN A LEVEL IN HISTORY.

Preparing for A Level



At Ridgewood Sixth Form we follow the AQA A level in History. You will study and be examined on three components:

Component One: The Tudors, 1485-1603

Component Two: Germany, 1919-1945

Component Three: Non-Examined Assessment (this is a 4,500 independent research project on a topic of your choosing).

We have outlined each component for you below. This will support you to start doing some research and reading around the topics that you will cover during the two-year course.

If you want a starting point, in the September of Year 12 we look at the reasons for the Kaiser's abdication, and Henry VII's domestic policies.

Component One: The Tudors, 1485-1603	Component Two: Germany, 1919-1945
This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions: How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy? In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period? How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured? How did English society and economy change and with what effects? How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects? How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments? The following monarchs are studied in depth: - Henry VII - Henry VIII - Edward VI - Mary I - Elizabeth I	This option provides for the study in depth of a period of German history during which a newly developed democratic form of government gave way to a dictatorial Nazi regime. It explores political concepts such as 'right' and 'left', nationalism and liberalism as well as ideological concepts such as racialism, anti-Semitism and Social Darwinism. It also encourages reflection on how governments work and the problems of democratic states as well as consideration of what creates and sustains a dictatorship. The key events studied include: - The abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II - The Treaty of Versailles - Hyperinflation, 1923 - Wall Street Crash - The Reichstag Fire - Night of the Long Knives - Kristallnacht - The Wannsee Conference

The following link will take you to the A level History specification on the AQA website where you can explore the course in more detail:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042>

You can use the reading material, podcasts, video links and useful websites below to develop your knowledge and understanding of the key course content, and gain other valuable background information.

Reading Material	Podcasts	YouTube Links	Useful Websites
These books are relevant for the Tudors component of the course: J Guy, Tudor England (OUP 1990) D Murphy (ed), England 1485-1603 (Collins, 1999) N Fellows, Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England (Hodder, 2009) These books are relevant for the Germany component of the course: G Layton, Access to History: From Kaiser to Fuhrer: Germany 1900-1945 (Hodder Education, 2009) M Burleigh, The Third Reich: A New History (Pan, 2001) Sir I Kershaw, The 'Hitler Myth': Image and Reality in the Third Reich (Oxford Paperbacks, 2001)	These are relevant for the Tudors component of the course: Tudors Dynasty– Podcasts which give a narrative overview of the events which occurred during the reign of each Tudor monarch. Talking Tudors – Professional historians present their analysis of the actions taken by each Tudor monarch. These are relevant for the Germany component of the course: BBC Podcast – Jochen Hung– A five-part podcast featuring a German historian who lived in Berlin between 1919 and 1933. Versus History Podcast– Starting with #63, these Podcasts consider the turmoil of the Weimar Republic. The Third Reich History Podcast– An in-depth look at Nazi domestic and foreign policies.	These are relevant for the Tudors component of the course: David Starkey Playlist – a series of documentaries on the Tudors topic, presented by a world-renowned expert: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIFVjNzOV1I&list=PLd8OQ6-KwPrZ5QX8C7NxJdtzmVM0VVpW Lucy Worsley's Fit to Rule – a documentary looking at the peaks and troughs of the Tudor period: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFG9DreLOfk&list=PLTCvvuzjbH0Z1Nc7qp_CAjT6KpUZNRUQv These are relevant for the Germany component of the course: A level History, Learning Academy – a series of videos perfectly linked to the A level course content: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZpR6TMgEm0&list=PLXtShDmDvfwWZ0jw8E3h58rZ43HycbDDi	A free online 6-week course to learn more about the Tudors: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-tudors A free online 6-week course to learn more about anti-Semitism: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antisemitism A huge number of primary sources and contemporary accounts of events relating to the Germany component of the course: https://www.facinghistory.org/weimar-republic-fragility-democracy/primary-sources/weimar-politics Easy to understand overviews of all the Tudor monarchs: https://tudorhistory.org/monarchs/ https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/tudors/ Easy to understand overviews of all the major events in the Germany course: https://www.britannica.com/place/Weimar-Republic https://www.johndclare.net/Weimar1_Tonge.htm

The list above is certainly not exhaustive and finding other sources of information yourself is recommended.