

History Transition Tasks

We cannot wait to study A-Level History with you. The topics that we will be studying are Russia, 1917-91; Mao's China, 1949-76; and Losing and gaining an Empire, 1763-1914. To help prepare we would recommend completing some of the below activities. Make sure you research a range of topics.

We are studying with the Edexcel exam board. Subject Content for this course can be found here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/history-2015.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

Task 1 – Watch this documentary about China.

As you watch create a timeline of the key events which took place in China between 1949 and 1976.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJyoX_vrlNs

Task 2 - Listen to 'The China History Podcasts' Episode 4 – *The Great Leap Forward*.

This show covers lots of interesting parts of Chinese History, and this episode focuses on The Great Leap Forward. Try and work out: When did it take place? What was it? Was it successful? What were its consequences?

<https://podcasts.apple.com/al/podcast/chp-004-the-great-leap-forward/id489369498?i=1000359105091>

Task 3 – Create a timeline of the final four Tsars of Romanov Russia.

In order to understand the revolutions of 1917 in Russia, you need to understand the context of the previous rulers! Create a timeline of the final four Tsars of Romanov Russia. Include: a picture; the years in which they ruled; any wars that took place during their reigns; the type of rule they wanted (what was their personality like? Were they popular? How did they see their role as Tsar?); and a key reform that was introduced during their reign. The Tsars you need to include are: Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II

Task 4 – Create a timeline of all Soviet rulers of Russia.

The course itself is focused on Soviet Russia, so you need to know these leaders well too! Include: a picture; the years in which they ruled; a key economic reform they introduced; a key social reform they introduced; the type of rule they wanted (what was their personality like? Were they popular? How did they see their role as Tsar?); how their time in power ended (e.g.: death). The leaders you need to include are: Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko, Gorbachev, and (not Soviet but still important!) Yeltsin and Putin.

Task 5 – Watch this documentary about the British Empire.

Research the colonial History of all of the countries mentioned in the documentary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAN01YX1pDM>

Task 6 – Visit some of these free museums in London and see what you can find out about the topics we will study.

- British Museum
- Natural History Museum
- National Gallery
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Museum of London
- Imperial War Museum

Task 7 – Read one or more of the below books.

1. *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang
2. *Empireland* by Sathnam Sanghera
3. *Red Fortress* by Catherine Merridale

