

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. Your teachers will check completion of each task by questioning you, or asking to see your notes. Where relevant, please ensure you keep notes, or can produce a copy of the reading which you have highlighted and annotated.

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 - 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

