History Essay Writing:

Societies in Flux

Winter 2023

In this new course, we will be learning about history through the lens of theme, unpicking the key historical concepts of continuity and change and transforming these into well argued, research and compelling essays. The class will learn how to use sources, how to think about historiography and how to weigh the importance of historical causes and consequences. We will touch on a variety of histories from across the world, focusing on the 18th-20th centuries and drawing a clear lineage between these themes and societies. These lessons are designed to enable students to learn about things they would not otherwise at school, supplementing the curriculum and uncovering the vast number of ways in which we can think about the subject of history. We will touch on intellectual, social, philosophical, world and political history, encouraging the students to debate concepts and develop their own historical analyses and arguments throughout. They will write an essay per week which will be graded.

***Lesson 1:* What is a Society?**

From the Ancient Greeks to modern sociologists, what is a society, and can we apply the concept historically, retrospectively or universally? An introduction to historiography and creative thinking!

***Lesson 2:* Empire and Society**

The Age of Empires changed the fundamental fabric of the world- how can we understand the impact of colonialism on societies on both sides of the colonial relationship?

***Lesson 3:* Industrial Revolution**

With the invention of the steam engine, a new era was ushered in which would go on to have profound consequences for the way we live, work and think about modernity.

***Lesson 4:* Women’s Rights**

From the Suffragette movement to the modern day, how has the position of women in society created flux, change and challenged the patriarchal order? How can history support this process?

***Lesson 5:* Fascism & the Age of Dictators**

A close look at the age of dictatorships in the 20th century, from Mussolini’s Italy to Hitler’s Germany, identifying their commonalities and the impact of this on the concept of society.

***Lesson 6:* Race and Society in the USA**

The end of the US Civil War abolished the system of slavery that had existed in the US since its conception- but how and why has racism continued to persist and how does it function?

***Lesson 7:* Revolutionary Cuba**

What are revolutions and why do they happen? We will be digging into this question through the revolution in 1950s Cuba, linking this to philosophy and the history of revolution in Europe.

***Lesson 8:* The Fall of the USSR**

How does society reconfigure upon the fall of a regime? What remains and what is left behind? We will consider the end of the USSR, using the novel *Stasiland* to think about what this meant.

***Lesson 9:* Technological Revolution**

What is globalisation and why is everyone always talking about it? A deep dive into the technological revolution of recent history, considering what may happen to society as a result.

***Lesson 10:* Mock Exam**

This lesson will contain a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt over the past sessions. They will be asked to complete an exam under timed conditions, after a revision period at the start of the lesson. They will have their exam graded and returned to them after the lesson.