History Essay Writing

Summer 2024

In this new course, we will be learning about history through the lens of a single event, the Russian Revolution, thinking widely and with reference to the historiography. The class will learn how to use sources, how to think about historical debate and how to weigh the importance of historical causes and consequences. 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:* Revolution?**

In this lesson we will discuss what revolution is and how it functions, thinking about the ideological basis of the Russian Revolution and linking this to wider debates on the conditions necessary for it. We will look at how the revolution began and meet the key characters within it.

***Lesson 2:* The Seeds of Revolution**

A context lesson on the seeds of the revolution, thinking about the system of Tsars and how it led to Bolshevism, discussing about how the First World War propelled this forward and learning about the historical context of Russia at the time, Rasputin & the Romanovs.

***Lesson 3:* Lenin and the Early Years**

This lesson will introduce the early years of the revolution, thinking about Lenin’s rise to power and his political ideology. We will complete source analysis and think about the impact of this on the everyday lives of Russian people.

***Lesson 4:* Stalin, Trotsky and Ouroboros**

In this lesson we will look at the power struggle between Stalin and Trotsky, mapping Stalin’s rise to power and how the revolution became like the ouroboros, eating its own tail. We will discuss what changed with Stalin and why authoritarianism calcified under his rule.

***Lesson 5:* Legacies**

What are the legacies of the Russian revolution today? What are the lessons to be learned from it? A lesson unpicking the importance of the revolution in terms of the historiography, thinking about how the rise of the Soviet Union shaped the world.

***Lesson 6:* 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.