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**VESPA Model Skills for A level History**

**General Skills (apply to all questions) and the Skills for a Unit 1 and 2 standard essay**

**1: KNOWLEDGE RECALL:** Being able to recall key content from the course and deploy it as evidence in support of your answer. This is not just telling the story but showing strong understanding and being able to apply this in solving the question.

**2: ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTION:** Being able to weigh the pros and cons of an issue and present a balanced argument which looks at both sides of an issue using an appropriate range of factors and depth of knowledge.

**3: EVALUATION OF THE QUESTION:** Being able to reach a convincing and supported judgement on the question and for the top marks being able to sustain this over the course of your essay.

**Source Skills for the primary source question in unit 1 and the interpretation question in unit 3**

**4: SOURCE ANALYSIS:** Being able to use your historical knowledge to evaluate both the content and the provenance of the source (See guide on primary sources for further advice here) .

**5: SOURCE EVALUATION:** Being able to make a judgement on the utility (usefulness) of the sources, primary and secondary both against each other and in relation to the question for primary this will involve consideration of both the content and the provenance. For secondary it is consideration of the strength of argument.

**Skills for the thematic unit 3 question which are needed in adition to the general skills in the first section**

**6: THEMATIC STRUCTURE:** Being able to structure your essay in a thematic way which allows you to develop comparisons across the period of the course.

**7: SYNTHESIS:** Being able to compare and contrast key aspects of the topic. To be able to identify key moments of change and use your knowledge to relate these to the given question.

**Skills for the course work and revision**

**8: RESEARCH:** Being able to effectively select key information from wider reading and organise this in a way which makes it usable for your final purpose (coursework or the exam).

How proficient are you with these skills rate yourself from 1 – 5 with 5 being that you feel you have mastered this and 1 being completely unsure of what you are supposed to be doing.

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| Skill | 1 Very unsureof what this entails | 2 somewhat unsure | 3 mostly comfortable with this | 4 Confident about your ability to do this | 5 Highly Confident in this area |
| 1: Knowledge recall |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 Analysis of the Question |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3: Evaluation of the Question |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4: Source Analysis  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5: Source Evaluation |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6: Thematic Structure |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7: Synthesis |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8: Research |  |  |  |  |  |