

Thinking about choosing to study History at Advanced level?

or

Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?

This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in History in your future career planning.

+ What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). The other subjects you choose to combine with History may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING

* HISTORY

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (the study of change, events and records of the past, how social processes have evolved through time, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

MIX & MATCH +

Complementary subjects include English Literature, Geography, History of Art, Economics, Sociology, Law, Philosophy and Religious Studies. If you are taking two other subjects which are predominantly mathematical and scientific, History provides a contrasting approach by helping to develop communication and research skills. It also provides a more traditional subject choice to complement more contemporary Advanced level courses such as Media Studies and Business Studies.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

<i>History Skills</i>		⊗ Ways in which you might learn these in the subject:
<i>Research skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> researching a topic by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use <input type="checkbox"/> analysing written, statistical and visual information <input type="checkbox"/> selecting the most important and persuasive evidence in support of a case	<input type="checkbox"/> reading and analysing historical accounts and other historical evidence <input type="checkbox"/> extracting information from historical texts <input type="checkbox"/> making notes on key events and people
<i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject <input type="checkbox"/> using visual materials to illustrate straightforward and complex matters <input type="checkbox"/> ordering and presenting material logically and accurately with all sources clearly referenced	<input type="checkbox"/> writing notes, records, criticisms and essays <input type="checkbox"/> using photographs, drawings, film clips, etc. within essays and presentations
<i>Communication skills - verbal:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> taking part in discussions and debates and making relevant contributions <input type="checkbox"/> listening and responding to others and encouraging them to speak <input type="checkbox"/> giving presentations, using images where appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/> discussing the importance of historical issues, ideas and individuals
<i>Numerical skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> collecting and recording data <input type="checkbox"/> reading, analysing and presenting data in statistical tables, graphs and charts <input type="checkbox"/> presenting statistical data in support of a historical argument	<input type="checkbox"/> checking dates and times of events, numbers involved, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> calculating percentage changes in population and income changes
<i>Skills of critical analysis:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> investigating historical events using incomplete or partial evidence about the past <input type="checkbox"/> testing the strengths and weaknesses of particular interpretations of history <input type="checkbox"/> distinguishing between fact, opinion and judgement when considering pieces of historical evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> researching historical events and presenting different viewpoints and interpretations <input type="checkbox"/> trying to ascertain what happened and form an opinion as to the reasons for this

⊗ Ways in which you might use these in a job:

- finding, sorting and evaluating evidence
- researching and preparing reports, documentaries, cases, etc.
- cataloguing historical artifacts

- producing letters, memos, reports, etc.
- writing newspaper articles, scripts, novels, museum guides, antique catalogues, etc.

- working as part of a team
- managing or supervising other people
- giving presentations, guided tours or speeches

- working with figures, budgets, accounts, timetables, etc.
- analysing and interpreting statistical data

- working through the pros and cons of different arguments, eg. in legal cases
- presenting original views or interpretations on various topics

history

🔍 other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying History at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsure
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

History

CAREER c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

There are a number of careers where having an Advanced level qualification in History, and all the skills that you develop through studying it, will be very useful. You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) code listed here.

CRCI code	Title
K	Archaeology
K	Archivist
BA	Architecture
K	Genealogy
BB	Building Conservation
K	Museum Work
K	Information Scientist
K	Library Work
M	Leisure, Sport and Tourism
F	Teaching
L	Legal and Political Services
AB	Civil Service
SB	Auctioneering
PB	Journalism
O	Market Research

Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

6 ways to check it out

Look at the 2 Skills pages.

- ① Put a cross against those skills you already have.
- ② Tick those skills you would like to gain or develop further.

- ③ Could you see yourself studying this subject at:

	Yes	No
Advanced level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degree level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- ④ Look at the Career Connections section which lists careers related to History. Do any of these appeal to you? Why?

- ⑤ Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with History students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.

- ⑥ So what do you think?
Are you interested in studying History further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1

2

3

Remember: Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities.

A = 120 points
B = 100 points
C = 80 points
D = 60 points
E = 40 points

Thinking of * doing a degree?

Degree level programmes normally require a minimum of 2 A2 levels, or the equivalent, plus supporting GCSE passes. There are a wide variety of courses where Advanced level History will be of direct relevance.

Degree programmes in History

History can be studied as a single subject or in combination with anything from Agriculture to Zoology. A wide range of courses exist in universities and colleges. These include both single subject and combined subject degrees. Most general History courses have a compulsory element which covers the major aspects of British and European History. At the end of the first year most courses offer a wide range of options.

History related degree courses

- History
- Modern & Contemporary History
- Cultural Studies
- Art History
- Regional History
- Ancient History
- Victorian Studies
- Social History
- Economic History
- European History
- International Relations
- Celtic History
- East Asian Studies
- Byzantine History
- Medieval History
- Intellectual History
- Post Colonial Studies
- Archaeology
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Classical Studies
- Classical Archaeology
- Egyptology
- Heritage Management
- Museum and Gallery Studies
- War and Peace Studies
- Gender and Women's Studies
- Journalism
- International Relations
- Law
- Heritage Management
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Social Sciences
- Trade Union Studies

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in History may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at wwwucas.com

History FACTFILE

Opportunities for Graduates

Recent statistics show the following trends for graduates from History degrees:

- just over 52% of all graduates entered full-time employment
- a wide range of jobs were entered by these graduates, including marketing, sales, public relations, advertising, financial services, computing and IT
- around 20% of those entering employment immediately after a degree went into management and administrative jobs in commerce, industry and the public sector, with small number entering marketing, sales and PR
- around 23% went into clerical and secretarial jobs
- over 30% of graduates entered some kind of further study or training – with significant numbers going on to higher degrees in History and related areas
- very few graduates are able to secure jobs that have a direct relevance to History. They are more likely to use the skills they have developed from studying History in a wide range of jobs.

...jobs ✖

These are some of the jobs that History graduates have gone into in recent years ...

- Museum Assistant
- Library Assistant
- Publishing Assistant
- Public Relations Assistant
- Distribution Management
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Personnel Assistant
- Retail Management Trainee
- Trainee Chartered Accountant
- Bank Clerk



need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > Get Set for History
published by Edinburgh University Press
- > CRAC Degree Course Guide - History, Archaeology and Politics
published by Trotman

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ Council for British Archaeology
St Mary's House
66 Bootham
York YO30 7BZ
01904 671417
www.britarch.ac.uk
- ▷ Historical Association
59a Kennington Park Road
London SE11 4JH
020 7735 3901
www.history.org.uk
- ▷ Museums Association
24 Calvin Street
London E1 6NW
020 7426 6910
Email: info@museumassociation.org
www.museumassociation.org
- ▷ Society of Archivists
Prioryfield House
20 Canon Street
Taunton
Somerset TA1 1SW
01823 3327030
Email: societyofarchivists@archives.org.uk
www.archives.org.uk
- ▷ Society of Genealogists
14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road
London EC1M 7BA
020 7251 8799
www.sog.org.uk