

GCSE History skills to practise

How to practise GCSE History skills.		
Section A. Analysis questions. To answer each question, pick a History topic you have studied for GCSE. Pick one of the examples for each type of question. Try to vary the topics you use.		
Type of question	Advice	Sentence starters/key phrases
Describe two key features of.... (e.g. the Weimar Constitution, attitudes to the Black Death, Soviet rule of Eastern Europe, Elizabethan Society, beliefs of the Mormons)	Think of everything you know about this thing the question is asking. Then try to divide these ideas up into two logical points. Fully describe the feature and include as many key words as you can.	One key feature was... Another key feature....
Explain a consequence of an event (e.g. Hitler's appointment as Chancellor, Pasteur's discovery of the germ theory, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Elizabeth's Religious Settlement, the building of the railroad in the American West)	State a consequence explain it.....	<i>As a result of ...</i> <i>This meant that ...</i> <i>... was a consequence of ... because ...</i>
Write a narrative account to explain (e.g. Hitler's rise to power, the discovery of chemical cures, Stalin's takeover of Eastern Europe, the plots against Elizabeth I, the defeat of the Plains Indians)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decide on your 3 events that make up this development – you could use the two bullet points and one idea of your own – this will make 3 paragraphs 2. Make sure that you write about them in <u>chronological order</u> (think, cause, event, consequence.) 3. In each paragraph explain the event and how it contributed to that development 4. Try and link each paragraph together 	<i>The first development in.... was....</i> <i>The second development was....</i> <i>The third development was....</i> <i>Furthermore.... This led to....</i> <i>This meant that... As a result of....</i> <i>In addition...</i>
Explain the importance of ... (e.g. The Wall Street Crash in Hitler's Rise to Power, technology in the discovery of the cause of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain two ways in which this event/development was important – think about change or what happened as a result of the event. 	<i>Firstly was important because</i> <i>Also it was important because....</i> <i>This meant that... This led to..... This is because..... For example,..... This was shown when.....</i>

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<p>disease, Gorbachev's new thinking in the fall of the USSR, Drake's piracy in war with Spain; new inventions for the success of the homesteaders)</p>		
<p>Explain why _</p> <p>(e.g. The Weimar Republic faced so many problems, medicine advanced during the Renaissance, the USSR became involved in Cuba's history, Elizabethan England was known as a Golden Age; the Plains Indians were able to survive on the Plains)</p>	<p>You must try to write three explain points.</p> <p>Use PEEL to structure your answers. Use the words of the question throughout.</p>	<p>One reason why.... For example.... This meant that....</p> <p>Another reason why.... For example.... This meant that....</p> <p>A final reason why... For example.... This meant that...</p>
<p>How far do you agree ...</p> <p>Choose one of these statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collapse of the Weimar Republic was inevitable. • More progress in surgery was made in the 19th century than the 20th century. • The War Time Conferences led to more agreements than disagreements. • Elizabeth dealt successfully with her problems. • The destruction of the buffalo made defeat of the Plains Indians inevitable. <p>How far do you agree? Explain your answer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You need a two-three line introduction. • Try to write three or four paragraphs after your introduction to agree and disagree with the question. • Use PEEL to structure your paragraph. • Then write a conclusion comparing the two sides of the argument and say overall whether you agree or disagree. 	<p>In some ways XXXXXXX because..... For example.... This shows that....</p> <p>However, its not completely accurate to say XXXXXX For example... This shows that....</p> <p>Overall, I agree/disagree that XXXXX because....</p>

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Section B. Source questions. Find primary sources from this website (pick a topic and search for the primary sources, normally at the end of the web page entry). <https://spartacus-educational.com/>

This video will help you with your source skills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEvCBBKP5po>

Type of question	Advice	Sentence starters/key phrases
<p>How useful is Source A for an enquiry into _____? Explain your answer, using the source and your knowledge of the historical context.</p>	<p>You must write a paragraph on content (what the source says or shows) and provenance (where the source has come from and what the source is) for each source. You need an overall judgement about how useful the source has been to find out about that topic.</p>	<p>Source A is _____ useful because of its content. It tells us about/it shows.... This is accurate because... It doesn't tell us about....</p> <p>Source A is _____ useful because of its provenance. It is a photograph/memory/report.... This makes it more/less useful because...</p> <p>Also the source is from the perspective of... this makes it more/less useful because....</p>

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