



CAREERS IN HISTORY

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Careers in History

People who study history are fearless explorers of the past. They investigate past politics, societies, cultures, languages, health, art, education, money, conflicts and more, look at how things have developed over time and connect the dots to understand how we got where we are today.

But it's all in the Past, Why is History Useful to Students Now?

It would be great to know what could happen before we make an important decision wouldn't it. Well, studying history can help us do this on a big scale. By analysing past events we learn about the consequences of people's actions and if we apply this knowledge to the present, governments, businesses and individuals can learn lessons from past mistakes or successes and make informed choices about their futures. For example, Economists might look at the causes of the recent recession and past economic problems to try and avoid them happening again.

In history we study lots of different sources and learn that events are often the result of complex and multiple factors. Studying history can also be inspiring. When we discover what people have achieved against the odds and how things can change over time, it can give us the motivation we need to succeed.

What Skills will I get from Studying History?

History teaches us to ask two very important questions: why and how. This is key to sharpening your critical thinking abilities, which combine analysis, research, essay writing and communication skills to help you to solve problems and form arguments for debate.

Historians look at all the available evidence and come to conclusions, a lot like a good detective, which helps them learn to be organised and manage information. If you're working with ancient history, you may not have a lot of source material to go on and it will be up to you to bring together all your knowledge and to try and solve the mysteries of the past.

What Careers can I do with History?

With your ace analytical, writing, debate and detective skills, you'll be primed for a huge range of careers in law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, teaching, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curation (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).

What Subjects does History go with?

Studying History at GCSE will help you with other GCSE and A-level essay subjects like English Literature, Languages, Media Studies, Law, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology, Economics and Sociology. Because it helps you develop both writing and analysis skills, it can also be really useful alongside a science subject or Maths to broaden your knowledge and abilities.

What Degrees and Other Qualifications do I need History for?

If you want to study History at university or, in some cases, American Studies at university, you may need to take it at A-level.

You won't need it for other specific courses but the Russell Group recommends History as an excellent subject for keeping your options open when choosing a degree. It can be especially useful for courses that include elements of history and essay writing like: Archaeology, Economics, Classical Studies, Modern Languages, English, History of Art, Law, Politics, Teaching and Religious Studies.

History GCSE or A-level can also be useful for vocational courses or school leaver jobs in journalism, administration, marketing or law.

Top Universities:

All leading UK universities offer History. The top 10 UK Universities for History according to the Complete University Guide are:

1. Durham
2. Cambridge
3. Oxford
4. St Andrews
5. London School of Economics
6. Warwick
7. University College London (UCL)
8. Exeter
9. Birmingham
10. Bristol

(Check UCAS website for entry requirements for these universities: www.ucas.com)

Celebrities who studied history

Winston Churchill / Jon Inverdale / Sacha Baron-Cohen / Jonathon Ross / Simon Mayo /
Tristram Hunt MP / Steve Coppel / Dr David Starkey / Dan Snow / Gordon Brown MP /
Simon Schama / The Chemical Brothers / Jeremy Bowen / Jon Snow

