

History Bringing it to Life Year 9 –10

Student Questioning Tool



Ask these questions to help you think, work and process like a historian.

What are the stories?

What are the stories about this?
 What information and sources are available about this?
 What is recorded or interpreted about the past?
 Where is it recorded or interpreted?
 What do we already know about this?
 What has been collected, conserved or interpreted from the past?
 How is this described, recorded or interpreted in other geographical places?

How do people communicate about this period of time?
 What are the main ideas they talk about?
 What is the vocabulary we need to understand, define and use?
 What are some of the key developments and events from this time?
 What period of time does this belong to?
 What are the relationships and patterns between events and developments in different times and places?

What questions do we have?

What does this make you wonder?
 What interests you?
 What confuses you?

What is missing?
 What else do you want/need to know?
 What contradicts what you already knew?

Cause and Effect

What causes of this have been identified?
 What have been identified as the long and short term effects of this?
 Are there different opinions on the cause/s of this?
 Who did this impact on?
 What influenced this?

Continuity and Change

How has this changed?
 How has this remained the same?
 What changed because of this?
 What are the patterns?

Significance

What do people most remember about this?
 What does this reveal about the past?
 Who is this significant for?
 How many people were affected by this?
 How relevant is this to the present?
 Which stories are important? Why?

What can we use to find out?

What evidence do you need to inform your inquiry?
 What information is available about this?
 What is recorded about the past?
 Where is it recorded?
 What has been collected, conserved or interpreted about this?

Where are the collections and interpretations about this?
 What is available online?
 What evidence is there?
 What are the primary sources?
 What are the secondary sources?

How can we use this to find out?

How can you analyse this?
 Who wrote or created this?
 For what purpose was it written or created?
 How reliable or accurate is this?
 Whose opinion or point of view is this?
 What other opinions, points of view or perspectives could there be?
 Is it one sided?

If it is one sided can it be used as evidence of values, attitudes and power structures that prevailed in the past?
 Whose perspective is being presented?
 What other perspectives are there?
 What is contestable?

How can we make sense of this?

What can you conclude from this?
 What does this reveal about points of view, attitudes and values in the past?
 What are the legacies of this?
 What are the different points of view about this?
 Who was/is this significant for?
 What action will you take?

Can you generalise this?
 What patterns are there?
 What is your own position on this?
 What can you argue or debate?
 What possible interpretations are there?
 What is your interpretation?
 What does this mean for the future?

How can we communicate this?

What will you explain?
 What will you discuss?
 What will you argue?
 How will you argue this?
 What do you want to help others understand?
 What is the historical interpretation you want to communicate?

Which perspectives do you want to communicate?
 Who is your audience?
 What is the best way to communicate this?
 How will you support your interpretation with evidence?
 How will you reference the sources you have used?