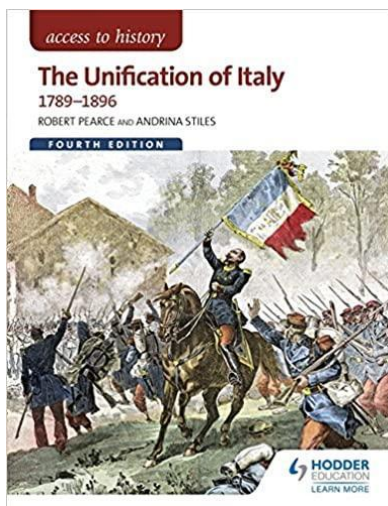
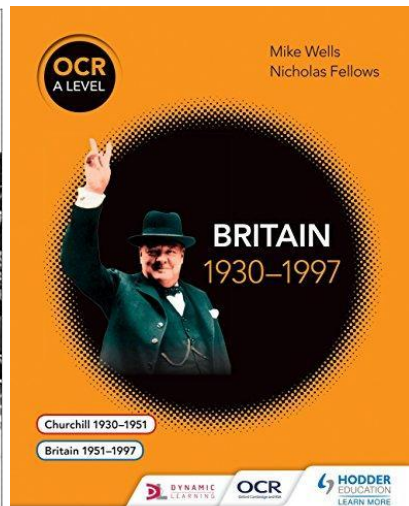
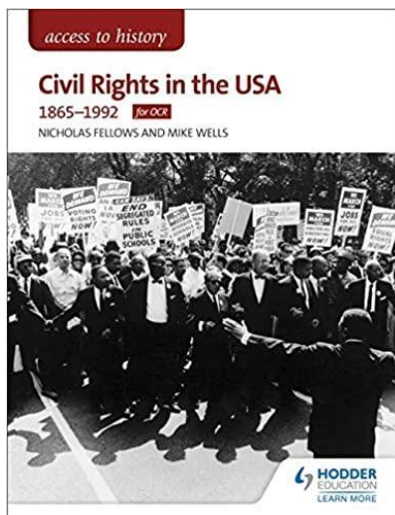


A-level History preparation

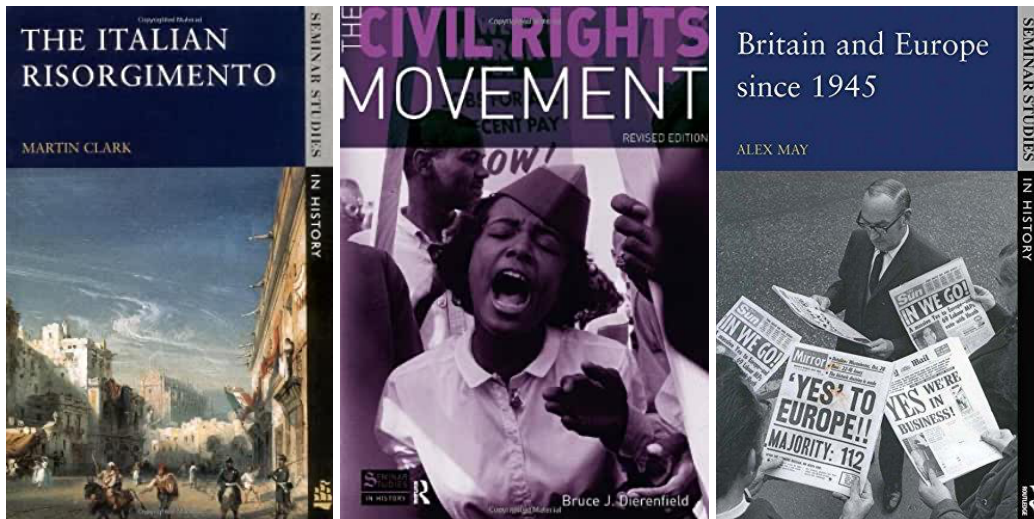
Below, we have set out a number of things we would like you to work your way through over the next weeks/months. The idea is to prepare you not only for the specific courses you will be undertaking but also to broaden your wider historical knowledge.

Textbooks...

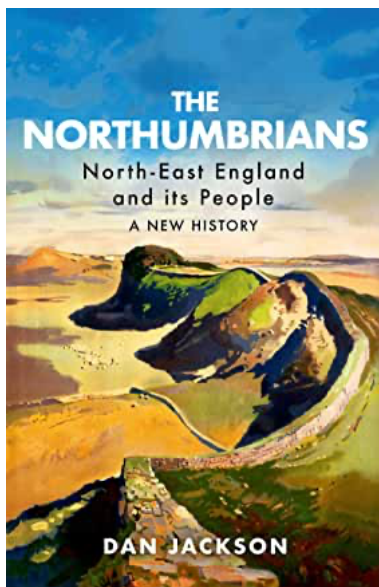
You will have an opportunity to get these from the library in September but if you like to buy your own, these are the main text books we use.



For your wider reading the following are great...



If you want to just read some great history, I am currently reading the following which is excellent.



I have included podcasts to listen to in addition to things to watch via youtube and articles to read. Remember that In Our Time has a huge back catalogue of all manner of History and is well worth a listen to.

Task

I would suggest that you set yourself at least two per week and complete a short summary of the main arguments. The idea is not to write loads but to create postcards with the main heading and then the 5 key takeaway ideas from the podcast.

Britain

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0005br9/thatcher-a-very-british-revolution-series-1-1-making-margaret>

There are five episodes in this, dealing with one of the most influential and controversial Prime Ministers of modern Britain. Few Prime Ministers genuinely changed Britain. Thatcher is one of them.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b07vs2hb> - Neville Chamberlain (Great Lives) controversial choice!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0blmn5l/the-flu-that-killed-50-million>
Learn more about the Spanish Flu. This virus killed 50,000,000 as WW1 came to an end.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b01083zj>

The Prime Ministers - this series on BBC sounds goes through all of the British Prime Ministers - if you want, just listen from 1931 but feel free to indulge.

Italy

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000d8rv> Seige of Paris 1870-71

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0008jd2> Napoleon's retreat from Moscow

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/b05zzlb4>

Napoleon - the man and the myth

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b083qx9j> Garibaldi and the Risorgimento

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Giuseppe Garibaldi and the Italian Risorgimento. According to the historian AJP Taylor, Garibaldi was the only wholly admirable figure in modern history. Born in Nice in 1807, one of Garibaldi's aims in life was the unification of Italy and, in large part thanks to him, Italy was indeed united substantially in 1861 and entirely in 1870. With his distinctive red shirt and poncho, he was a hero of Romantic revolutionaries around the world. His fame was secured when, with a thousand soldiers, he invaded Sicily and toppled the monarchy in the Italian south. The Risorgimento was soon almost complete

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547gg> Legacy of the French Revolution

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the French Revolution. In 1789 the Bastille was stormed, the King Louis XVI was put under national guard and the calendar was turned back to zero. The French Revolution began its upheavals in the name of Libert , Egalit  and Fraternit . On this side of the English Channel there were those who thought it 'bliss in that dawn to be alive', but the statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke was not among them. He said, "The age of chivalry is gone. That of sophisters, economists, and calculators, has succeeded; and the glory of Europe is extinguished for ever". What was really the end of an age? What was the impact of this revolution on the culture of Europe? And did it really change political life in Britain for ever?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9cf>

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the reign of terror during the French Revolution. On Monday September 10th 1792 The Times of London carried a story covering events in revolutionary France: "The streets of Paris, strewn with the carcasses of the mangled victims, are become so familiar to the sight, that they are passed by and trod on without any particular notice. The mob think no more of killing a fellow-creature, who is not even an object of suspicion, than wanton boys would of killing a cat or a dog". These were the infamous September Massacres when Parisian mobs killed thousands of suspected royalists and set the scene for the events to come, when Madame La Guillotine took centre stage and The Terror ruled in France. But how did the French Revolution descend into such extremes of violence? Who or what drove The Terror? And was it really an aberration of the revolutionary cause or the moment when it truly expressed itself?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b019gy9p> 1848 Year of Revolutions

Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss 1848, the year that saw Europe engulfed in revolution. Across the continent, from Paris to Palermo, liberals rose against conservative governments. The first stirrings of rebellion came in January, in Sicily; in February the French monarchy fell; and within a few months Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy had all been overtaken by revolutionary fervour. Only a few countries, notably Britain and Russia, were spared. The rebels were fighting for nationalism, social justice and civil rights, and were prepared to fight in the streets down to the last man. Tens of thousands of people lost their lives; but little of lasting value was achieved, and by the end of the year the liberal revolutions had been soundly beaten.

Civil Rights

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0054594> The American Century

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss how legitimate it is to call the 20th century the American century. Just how benevolent has America's impact on the world been? And how durable has America's initial idealism proved to be? Have ideals of democracy and freedom been forged across the globe as a result of the American influence, or has American oppression made the bigger impact? Has America ignored its own inequalities whilst advocating democratic capitalism elsewhere? Can America still lay claim to the idealism which fired its founders, or has materialism, with its uncomfortable corollary deprivation, lain waste to those early ideals?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005f2k> President Ulysses S Grant

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Grant's role in rebuilding America in the decade after the Civil War and his impact on African-Americans and Native Americans.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09qb0kc> **Frederick Douglass**

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the life and ideas of the prominent abolitionist, who in 1845 told his story in 'Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave'.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b098bt3h> Congress of Vienna

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the conference convened by the victorious powers of the Napoleonic Wars and the earlier French Revolutionary Wars, which had devastated so much of Europe over the last 25 years. The powers aimed to create a long lasting peace, partly by redrawing the map to restore old boundaries and partly by balancing the powers so that none would risk war again. It has since been seen as a very conservative outcome, reasserting the old monarchical and imperial orders over the growth of liberalism and national independence movements, and yet also largely successful in its goal of preventing war in Europe on such a scale for another 100 years. Delegates to Vienna were entertained at night with lavish balls, and the image above is from a French cartoon showing Russia, Prussia, and Austria dancing to the bidding of Castlereagh, the British delegate.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08tbf4g> The American Populists

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss what, in C19th America's Gilded Age, was one of the most significant protest movements since the Civil War with repercussions well into C20th. Farmers in the South and Midwest felt ignored by the urban and industrial elites who were thriving as the farmers suffered droughts and low prices. The farmers were politically and physically isolated. As one man wrote on his abandoned farm, 'two hundred and fifty miles to the nearest post office, one hundred miles to wood, twenty miles to water, six inches to Hell'. They formed the Populist or People's Party to fight their cause, put up candidates for President, won several states and influenced policies. In the South, though, their appeal to black farmers stimulated their political rivals to suppress the black vote for decades and set black and poor white farmers against each other, tightening segregation. Aspects of the Populists ideas re-emerged effectively in Roosevelt's New Deal, even if they are mainly remembered now, if at all, thanks to allegorical references in The Wizard of Oz.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07c2w5j> Gettysburg Address

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, ten sentences long, delivered at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg after the Union forces had won an important battle with the Confederates. Opening with "Four score and seven years ago," it became one of the most influential statements of national purpose, asserting that America was "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" and "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom-and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Among those inspired were Martin Luther King Jr whose "I have a dream" speech, delivered at the Lincoln Memorial 100 years later, echoed Lincoln's opening words

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05tly3f> Cotton Famine in Lancashire from 1861-65.

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Cotton Famine in Lancashire from 1861-65. The Famine followed the blockade of Confederate Southern ports during the American Civil War which stopped the flow of cotton into mills in Britain and Europe. Reports at the time told of starvation, mass unemployment and migration. Abraham Lincoln wrote, "I know and deeply deplore the sufferings which the working-men of Manchester, and in all Europe, are called to endure in this crisis." While the full cause and extent of the Famine in Lancashire are disputed, the consequences of this and the cotton blockade were far reaching.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0112xfd> Battle of the Little Bighorn

Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the Battle of the Little Bighorn, also known as Custer's Last Stand. In 1876 a dispute between the American federal government and Native Americans over land rights led to an armed conflict now known as the Great Sioux War. An expeditionary federal force was sent out to coerce the Native Americans into reservations, and away from the gold reserves recently discovered in their traditional homelands. One of the officers in this expeditionary force was a Civil War hero, George Custer. While en route to his arranged rendezvous, Custer unexpectedly encountered a large group of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors. Disobeying orders, he decided to attack. Barely half an hour later, he and all 200 of his men lay dead. Custer's Last Stand has become one of the most famous and closely studied military engagements in American history

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b08pf09d> - Great Lives Sitting Bull was one of the Great Sioux Warriors and fought at the Battle of the Little Bighorn

[B09z4k9z](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b09z4k9z) - Great Lives Jazz was a major cultural landmark in both African American and wider history. Miles Davis was one of the greatest trumpet players of all time.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b04d4n8b> - James Brown Great Lives - say it loud - I'm black and I'm proud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ts10IVzUDVw&list=PL0wK3r1sMvSZVth7XGlcplLSjS3tAp90I>

Eyes on the Prize is probably the best documentary ever made on the History of the Civil Rights movement. There are 14 one hour episodes which will take you from 1954 and the Brown case through to 1983. Well worth watching for the amazing interviews alone.

Really want to challenge yourself?

Futurelearn is an online degree level programme. If you have any desire to continue with History beyond A-level then these courses look amazing on your university application (there is more here than History if you really want to look)

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses?filter_category=16&filter_course_type=open&filter_availability=started&all_courses=1

Learn more about the Holocaust

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/auschwitz-untold-in-colour>

Expand your knowledge of recent history with 60 15 minute podcasts

This sequence of radio programmes are each just 15 minutes long and go through 60 British people who shaped the first 60 years of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b01jxs2c>

Please don’t forget that you are all members of the **Historical Association** through Whickham

Here is an example of some really useful material on the USA

<https://www.history.org.uk/student/categories/915/module/8701/a-level-topic-guide-usa-in-the-20th-century>

Task:

Please select a minimum of 6 podcasts/articles. You will need to ensure that you cover at least one from each of the units we study.
For each of these you need to write a summary of the main points covered.

Podcast/Article	Notes
