

## **HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION NEA**

The purpose of the Historical Investigation is to enable students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work. This is particularly useful training for those planning to continue with history at University level.

The Historical Investigation must

- Be independently researched and written by the student.
- Presented in the form of extended writing, with a limit of 4500 words.
- Draw upon student's investigations of sources (primary and secondary).
- The issue will be investigated within a context of approximately 100 years.
- Must start before 1807.
- The Historical Investigation will not duplicate the content of lessons.

### **Tasks**

Pick a topic that you are interested in as you will be working at it for over a year. Does it fulfill the criteria listed above? Do you actually like the topic? Is it something that you will be interested in researching in greater depth?

You need an actual question that you are going to investigate, not just a topic. So "Stuarts" or "Russia" is a starting point; but what you need is a specific question.

For example :

- "To what extent did the Glorious Revolution successfully settle relations between Crown and Parliament in the context of the Stuart Period".
- "To what extent did Tsar Nicholas I change the nature of Tsarist rule set against the period of Catherine the Great, Alexander and Nicholas I".

Ask yourself :

- Is there a range of primary sources and material available to support individual investigation?
- Is the issue and question one which has promoted debate and differences of interpretation amongst historians?

Places you can find information and ideas

- The RC has numerous copies of BBC History Magazine. New ones delivered each month
- History Extra Podcast - <https://www.historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/>
- The RC History section
- The National Archives - <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- History.co.uk has articles on all ranges of subject - <https://www.history.co.uk/>
- Museums local and national can be great for building up background knowledge
- With a little searching you can find a podcast / tv show / documentary film / Youtube channel on most historical topics.

**Be selective with the places you look for specific information and ideas.**