

## **GCSE History at St Gregory's:** **Recommended Reading and Resources**

Below you will find a list of resources to support the GCSE AQA History course that we follow at St Gregory's, covering the topics of Germany 1890-1945, the Cold War, Elizabethan England, and Medicine Through Time (c1000 - Present). These are all complementary but not compulsory and students will all be given access to free resources via Google Classroom including PowerPoints, YouTube Videos, Knowledge Organisers and Online Revision Guides. Please note that many of the books recommended are also available within school for students to borrow:

### **Course Specific Revision Guides: (Approx. £7.25 each on Amazon)**

We would recommend buying used (Approx. £4 each on Amazon) Students are also welcome to borrow copies of the revision guides in lessons and in revision sessions)

[Germany - Democracy and Dictatorship](#) by Aaron Wilkes

[Conflict and Tension between East and West](#) By Tim Williams and Aaron Wilkes

[Elizabethan England](#) By Tim Williams and Aaron Wilkes

[Health and the People](#) By Aaron Wilkes

### **GCSE POD and SENECA**

Both GCSE POD and SENECA are used by the department to set homework and revision tasks for students but we also recommend use for individual revision. Students all have a full subscription to GCSE Pod and can access the website and App using their school email login. GCSE Pod offers a wide range of resources specifically tailored to the AQA GCSE History curriculum. The website provides comprehensive coverage of the topics, ensuring that students have access to all the necessary information and content needed to excel in their exams. The content is broken down into short videos, or "pods," that focus on specific topics or concepts. This format makes it easier for students to grasp complex ideas and allows for focused and efficient studying, there is a clear focus on AQA specific exam content too.

Seneca is also a highly beneficial, free website for AQA GCSE History students. One of the key features of Seneca is its interactive learning approach. The platform utilizes engaging multimedia elements, such as videos, images, and animations, to present the information in an interactive and visually appealing manner. This interactive approach helps students better understand and remember the key concepts and events of history. Seneca incorporates adaptive learning technology, which means that it adapts to each student's individual needs and learning pace. Seneca identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses and tailors the learning experience accordingly.

### **Books:**

1. "Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship" by Geoff Layton
2. "The Cold War: Superpower Tensions and Rivalries" by Steve Phillips
3. "Elizabethan England, c1568-1603" by Peter Brimacombe
4. "The Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England" by Ian Mortimer
5. "Elizabeth: The Forgotten Years" by John Guy
6. "Medicine Through Time: From Ancient Times to the Present" by Ian Dawson
7. "Germany: Democracy and Dictatorship, 1919-1963" by Alan White
8. "Shortest History Of Germany" By James Hawes

### **Films and Documentaries:**

1. "Downfall" (2004) - A German film depicting the final days of Adolf Hitler and the fall of Nazi Germany.
2. "The Lives of Others" (2006) - A German film exploring surveillance and the Stasi in East Germany during the Cold War.
3. "The Cold War" (BBC Documentary Series) - A comprehensive documentary series that examines the major events and key figures of the Cold War.
4. "Elizabeth" (1998) - A film starring Cate Blanchett, portraying the early years of Queen Elizabeth I's reign.
5. "The English Surgeon" (2007) - A documentary following a British neurosurgeon's work in Ukraine, shedding light on advancements in medicine.
6. "The Vietnam War" (2017): While not specifically focused on the Cold War, this documentary series on Netflix provides a comprehensive exploration of the Vietnam War, a significant conflict that occurred during the Cold War era.
7. "The Cold War" (2012): This documentary series on Netflix examines the major events, key figures, and ideological clash between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It provides a thorough overview of the political, social, and cultural aspects of this era.
8. "The World at War" (1973): (Netflix) This highly acclaimed documentary series covers various aspects of World War II, including Nazi Germany. It features interviews with key individuals involved in the conflict and offers a comprehensive examination of the war's impact on global history.

9. "Hitler's Circle of Evil" (2017): This documentary series delves into the inner circle of Adolf Hitler and explores the personalities and motivations of his closest associates. It sheds light on the rise of Nazi Germany and the factors that contributed to its destructive ideology.

#### **Websites:**

1. BBC Bitesize History - Provides resources, revision guides, and quizzes specifically tailored to the GCSE AQA History course.
2. The National Archives - Offers a wide range of primary sources, documents, and historical records related to the topics covered in the course.
3. Spartacus Educational - An online resource with detailed articles, biographies, and timelines on various historical topics, including those covered in the GCSE AQA History course.
4. History Learning Site - Provides comprehensive articles, resources, and interactive materials.

These resources should provide a solid foundation for your studies and enhance your understanding of the subjects. Remember to cross-reference information, critically evaluate sources, and engage actively with the material to maximize your learning experience. If you want any further advice and extra-curricular support, please just ask your class teacher!