

Overview of Core Historical Concepts

LO1) Causation		LO4) Change & Continuity	
SIGNPOST 1 Causal Webs	Change happens because of MULTIPLE CAUSES and leads to many different results or consequences. These create a WEB of related causes and consequences.	SIGNPOST 1 Identifying Change	Past societies are not fixed, there are changes which have occurred spanning centuries. Changes in the past can be identified by looking at DEVELOPMENTS between two periods.
SIGNPOST 2 Influence of Factors	Different causes have different LEVELS OF INFLUENCE. Some causes are more important than other causes.	SIGNPOST 2 Interweaving Continuity and Change	Change and continuity are INTERWOVEN and both can be present together in history. CHRONOLOGIES can be used to show change and continuity working together over time.
SIGNPOST 3 Personal and Contextual Factors	Historical changes happen because of two main factors: The actions of HISTORICAL ACTORS and the CONDITIONS (social, economic etc.) which have influenced those actors.	SIGNPOST 3 Flows of Continuity and Change	Change is a process which varies over time. Change can be described as a FLOW in terms of its PACE and EXTENT and can be said to TRENDS and have specific TURNING POINTS.
LO2) Historical Evidence		LO5) Historical Interpretations	
SIGNPOST 1 Inferences from Sources	When we write history we need to create interpretations of the past based on evidence. INFERENCES are drawn from a variety of primary sources to create interpretations of the past.	SIGNPOST 1 Identifying Interpretations	Historical interpretations are everywhere. Every piece of historical writing is an interpretation of some sort. The past is not fixed but CONSTRUCTED through interpretations.
SIGNPOST 2 Cross Referencing Sources	Historical evidence must be CROSS-REFERENCED so that claims are not made based on single pieces of evidence. CROSS-REFERENCING means checking against other primary or secondary sources.	SIGNPOST 2 Drawing Inferences from Interpretations	It is possible to draw INFERENCES from interpretations of the past, just like with historical sources. INFERENCES will reveal the MESSAGE of a particular interpretation.
SIGNPOST 3 Source Utility	Historical evidence has multiple uses. The UTILITY of a piece of historical evidence varies according to the specific enquiry or the questions being asked.	SIGNPOST 3 Evaluating Interpretations	The APPROACH of an author must always be considered. This means considering their VIEWPOINT, PURPOSE, AUDIENCE and EVIDENCE chosen to build their interpretation
SIGNPOST 4 Evaluating Sources	Working with evidence begins before the source is read by thinking about how the AUTHOR, intended AUDIENCE and PURPOSE of an historical source might affect its WEIGHT for a purpose.	SIGNPOST 4 Interpretations in Context	Historical interpretations must be understood on their own terms. This means thinking about the CONTEXT in which they were created and what conditions and views existed at the time.
SIGNPOST 5 Sources in Context	Historical evidence must be understood on its own terms. This means thinking about the CONTEXT in which the source was created and what conditions and views existed at the time.		
LO3) Historical World Views		LO6) Knowledge & Communication	
SIGNPOST 1 Appreciating World-Views	There are major differences between modern WORLD-VIEWS and those of people in the past, this means their beliefs, values and motivations. We must avoid PRESENTISM.	SIGNPOST 1 Knowledge	Historical knowledge and evidence is used to develop and prove an argument. Historical evidence should be ACCURATE and RELEVANT.
SIGNPOST 2 Perspectives in Context	The perspectives of HISTORICAL ACTORS are best understood by thinking about the CONTEXT in which people lived and the WORLD-VIEWS that influenced them	SIGNPOST 2 Structure	All writing needs a clear structure. This means introducing your work, developing ideas in paragraphs and reaching an overall conclusion.
SIGNPOST 3 Perspectives from Evidence	Looking at the perspective of an HISTORICAL ACTOR means drawing INFERENCES about how people thought and felt in the past. It does not mean using modern WORLD-VIEWS to imagine the past	SIGNPOST 3 Argument	All historical essays require some form of argument to develop. This means you need to clearly answer the question set and build a clear line of argument throughout your work.
SIGNPOST 4 Diversity	A variety of HISTORICAL ACTORS have very different (DIVERSE) experiences of the events in which they are involved. Understanding DIVERSITY is key to understanding history.		