

SUMMARY: A-LEVEL HISTORY INDUCTION TASKS – YEAR 11 into 12

TASK 1: Introduction to France in Revolution: Absolutism and the structure of the Ancien Régime

- Read through the information sheets provided making notes and completing the quick questions and exercise sheet 1.
- Write an essay of approx. 750 words considering the statement: “The Ancien Régime was fatally flawed due to the social divisions of the Three Estates”.
- You will need to carry out your own further research on this. There are lots of excellent websites for example:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/house-of-Bourbon>
<https://www.britannica.com/event/ancien-regime>
- <https://strengthsweaknessesancienregime.wordpress.com/>
- Tip: make sure you a balanced evaluation of the statement. Rather than simply describe the three estate system consider the belief in absolute monarchy, the history of the monarchy in France, and the structure of government also. Therefore, you will need to consider ways in which it is fatally flawed (weaknesses) and ways in which it is only part of the problem, before reaching your final conclusion.

Task 2: Introduction to Stuart Britain: Crisis in Monarchy

- Reading Exercise – Note that this chapter is from an academic book and is therefore more challenging than A level. The idea is not for you to immediately understand the chapter fully and it is expected that you **will** find it hard. Don't worry about this as although you will need to get more comfortable with texts such as these, we do help you understand what historians are saying so you get used to the complexity after two years of study. The idea is for us to see how well you have attempted to understand what we have provided to you and how you manage to work out what is being said. In this way, we get an idea of whether you are capable of studying A level history and hopefully, you will too.
- Read the Chapter on James I and make brief notes on it by answering the questions below. This does not have to be done in continuous prose but you should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the chapter as it will provide you with background information that will enable you to successfully begin the A level course.
 1. Why do you think that the most significant fact about James I is that he was a Scot who successfully and actively ruled Scotland for forty years?
 2. What impact did events in James's early life have on him?
 3. What ideas were taught to James about government in order to justify his mother's deposition?
 4. What ideas of kingship did James believe in?
 5. What does James's reaction to the events leading up to his mother's execution tell us about him?
 6. In what ways was James's life transformed in September 1579?
 7. Explain whether James was too reliant on his favourites
 8. How did James seek to resolve problems in Scotland with the governing classes and how successful was he?
 9. Why did he have financial problems and how did he attempt to solve these?
 10. How did the Scottish Presbyterian Church develop and why was this an issue for the Crown?
 11. How did Melville see James's role in the Church?
 12. How did James try to tame the Church and was he successful?
 13. What qualities did James bring to the throne of England?

Other useful things to do:

Watch the film 'Marie Antoinette'(2006). Whilst not perfect (no film is) it will give you a sense of the issues with the Ancien Régime and an overview of revolutionary events from the viewpoint of the Queen.

Read any linked books you can get hold of. Attached with the resources are suggested reading lists. At this point it is useful to get what historians call 'a sense of a period' (an overview of what it might like at this time).

Any Questions? Please get in touch with Mrs Page – epage@ccs.northants.sch.uk