**Reading, Watching and Listening List - History**

Year 11 - Below are some suggestions for those of you who might want to continue finding out about history just for fun or for our A Level Historians who might want to get stuck into some background research over the coming weeks. **This is completely optional but you may find the suggestions interesting or useful.**

**Podcasts**

**Easy**

[**History Pod**](https://www.historypod.net/)

An ‘on this day’ podcast led by a History Teacher

[**History Hit**](https://www.historyhit.com/podcasts/)

Dan Snow interviews famous historians about their most recent work. Short and attention grabbing.

[**BBC History Extra**](https://www.historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/)

Podcast from the BBC History Magazine where writers meet historians to uncover the truth about historical figures and events. Slightly longer.

[**In Our Time History**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dh5yg)

**Hard**

Melvyn Bragg interviews a group of leading academics about historical events and figures in an hour long deep dive.

**Historical Films**

**The Great Gatsby, 2013**

Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald’s 1925 book of the same name, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan. The film follows the life and times of millionaire Jay Gatsby and his neighbour, who recalls their encounters during the height of the Roaring Twenties.

**Rebel Without a Cause, 1955**

1955 American drama about the rise of the teenager, starring James Dean, and a confused generation of suburban, middleclass teenagers. A ground-breaking attempt to portray the moral decay of American youth.

**A Level Prep – The Man from UNCLE 2015**

One of Guy Ritchie’s better movies based in 1960’s cold war. Action/ adventure / comedy based in cold war Berlin initially.

**A Level Prep – Forrest Gump**

In this Oscar-winning picture, Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks) , a gentle soul born in a small Alabama town, happens into one memorable experience after another through a panorama of American history and the cold war from the 1950s to the 1990’s.

**A Level Prep - Bridge of Spies**

Hollywood classic Cold War espionage thriller, thanks to reliably outstanding work from Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.Spielberg drama about the exchange of prisoners during the early days of East Germany behind the Berlin wall.

A Level Prep- Several action films with a cold war background .. Rocky 4, Firefox, Hunt for Red October.

**Amazing Grace, 2006**

Tells the story of William Wilberforce, a young Parliamentarian who launched a 30 year battle to abolish slavery.

**A Level Prep - Selma, 2014**

Based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting marches ed by James Bevel, Hosea Williams, Martin Luther King Jr, and John Lewis.

**A Level Prep -** Free State of Jones 2016

Epic action-drama set during the Civil War, and tells the story of Newt Knight, and his extraordinary armed rebellion against the Confederacy. Banding together with other small farmers and local slaves, Knight launched an uprising that led Jones County, Mississippi to secede from the Confederacy, creating a Free State of Jones. Knight continued his struggle into Reconstruction USA.

**A Level Prep – Mississippi Burning**

An all-names-changed dramatization of the Ku Klux Klan's murders of three civil rights workers in 1964. Investigating the mysterious disappearances of the three activists are FBI agents Gene Hackman (older, wiser) and Willem Dafoe (younger, idealistic) in a fiercely hostile local community.

**A Level Prep -The Butler, 2013**

Cecil Gaines, played by Forest Whitaker, secures the opportunity of a lifetime when he is made a butler at the White House. Over the course of three decades, he has a front row seat, which causes tension during the Civil Rights Movement when he questions his loyalty to the ‘First Family’.

**A Level Prep - Malcolm X, 1992**

Biographical drama about the life of African-American activist and preacher for National of Islam, Malcolm X, set within the context of the Civil Rights Movement.

**A Level Prep - The Rosa Parks Story, 2002**

Biographical drama of the life of Rosa Parks leading up to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

**1917, 2019**

British epic war thriller written, directed and produced by Sam Mendes, tracing the lives of two British soldiers who receive seemingly impossible orders during World War I.

**Dunkirk, 2017**

British epic war thriller about the build up to the evacuation of Dunkirk during World War II.

**War Horse, 2011**

2011 British-American war film based on Michael Morpurgo’s 1982 novel of the same name. Recounts the experiences of Joey, a horse purchased by the Army for service in World War I France and the attempts of Young Albert, his previous owner, to bring him safely home.

A Level Prep-  *“In the Heat of the Night”* (1967) — An African American police detective from Philadelphia, PA (played by Sidney Poitier) is asked to investigate a murder in a racially hostile Mississippi town under the guidance of a skeptical white sheriff (played by Rod Steiger).

A Level Prep- *“To Kill A Mockingbird”* (1962) – Based on Harper Lee’s novel, Gregory Peck stars as Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, who defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge and his children against prejudice.



**A Level Prep - Elizabeth, 1998**

Cate Blanchett stars as a young Elizabeth I as she is elevated to the throne following the death of her half-sister, Mary I.

**A Level Prep - Elizabeth: The Golden Years, 2007**

Cate Blanchett reprises her role as Elizabeth I, this time as the mature Queen Elizabeth endures multiple crises late in her reign including court intrigues, an assassination plot, the Spanish Armada and romantic disappointments. Be careful here the history isn’t the best here!

**A Level Prep - Mary Queen of Scots, 2018**

Chronicles the conflict between Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots throughout Elizabeth’s reign, and builds up to the decision to imprison and execute Mary Queen of Scots. Be careful here the history isn’t the best here!

**Lincoln, 2012**

Historical drama charting the lives of one of America’s greatest presidents of all time, Abraham Lincoln, and his mission to pass the 13th amendment, and therefore to abolish slavery.

**Darkest Hour, 2017**

Gary Oldman plays Winston Churchill during a four week period in 1940 that saw the UK almost surrender to Hitler, and lose World War II.

**Netflix Documentaries – Please be aware that that the themes here are upsetting!**

**A Level Prep - Hiroshima, 2005**

Documentary marking the 60th anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a decision by President Truman that would have catastrophic consequences for a whole generation of Japanese.

**A Level Prep - World War 2 in Colour, 2008**

13 part television documentary charting the main events of World War II, but this time adding colour imagery to bring moments in history to life.

**Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution, 2005**

6 part documentary series about the decisions that took place ultimately leading to the creation of The Final Solution and the conversion of Auschwitz from concentration camp to extermination camp. Takes a detailed and close look at each part of the camp and reconstructs its inner workings.

**A Level Prep - The Russian Revolution, 2017**

A film tracing the downfall of the Romanov dynasty and the ascension of Lenin’s Ulyanov family that ultimately led to the Russian Revolution and the first communist state the world had ever seen.

**A Level Prep - Who Killed Malcolm X?, 2020**

Historian Abdur-Rahman Muhammad takes a deep dive into Malcolm X’s life and rise and suggests that an investigation into his death should be reopened.

**A Level Prep - What Happened Miss Simone?, 2015**

Biographical documentary film about the legendary singer and classically trained pianist Nina Simone, the risks she took to learn to play the piano because of the Jim Crow laws, and her involvement in the black power movement in the 1960s and 70s that ultimately led to her downfall, until she was rediscovered.

**A Level Prep - 13th, 2016**

Film that explores how the abolition of slavery in the United States of America did not abolish racism, and how its presence in US institutions helped slavery be replaced by other forms free labour and incarceration for African Americans.

**BBC Documentaries**

**Suffragettes with Lucy Worsley**

Dramatised story of how a group of working class women conducted a very dangerous campaign to get women the vote in the UK.

**A Very British History**

Follows the forgotten / untold stories of immigrants to the UK including the Chinese, Irish in the Midlands, the Vietnamese Boat people and the British Bangladeshi community.

**A Level Prep - England’s Forgotten Queen: the Life and Death of Lady Jane Grey with Helen Castor**

Helen Castor tells the story of Lady Jane Grey, who was queen of England for just 9 days before Mary I, Elizabeth I’s older half-sister, claimed the throne.

**How We Built Britain with David Dimbleby**

David Dimbleby examines some of Britain’s great historical buildings and examines their impact on Britain’s architectural and social history.

**Historical Fiction**

**Tudor England**

***Eliza Rose* by Lucy Worsley** – The story of a young girl in the court of Henry VIII at the time of Anne of Cleves and her cousin, Katharine Howard.

***Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel** – Written for adults, top-class historical fiction centred on the life of Thomas Cromwell, Chief Minister to Henry VIII. The sequel is called ***Bring up the Bodies*** and the newly released **The Mirror and the Light.**

**Dissolution by C.J. Sansom –** This is the first of a series of murder mysteries set in the reign of Henry VIII and beyond! Shardlake has to navigate the dangerous world of Tudor England to find the truth. Sansom was a professor of History at Birmingham University and is historical detail is fantastic.

***Treason* by Berlie Doherty** - Will’s father is imprisoned by Henry VIII, accused of treason and Will is forced to go into hiding in the back streets of London.

***A Traveller in Time* by Alison Uttley** – A young girl lives in the manor of the Babingtons and travels back to the time when the family was caught up in plots to free Mary Queen of Scots.

***King of Shadows* by Susan Cooper** – A boy from New England rehearses for a boy troupe performance of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in London and finds himself back in time in the actual Globe, with a case of mistaken identity that leads him to work with the playwright himself.

**The 20th Century**

***The Skylarks’ War* by Hilary McKay** – A family grows up against the harsh backdrop of World War One.

***Conkers and Grenade*s by Hilary Lee-Corbin** – Set in Bristol in 1916, in a world plunged into war, *Conkers and Grenades* follows Mar and Appy, two boys who discover a spy ring and a plot to assassinate the king and queen.

***The Rasputin Dagger* by Theresa Breslin** – A love story set against the backdrop of the days leading to the Russian Revolution.

***Medal for Leroy* by Michal Morpurgo** – Inspired by the true story of Walter Tull, professional footballer and the first black officer in the British Army.

***The Eagle has Landed* by Jack Higgins**  – The Second World War and the German government has given orders to capture Winston Churchill.

***Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse**  – It’s Amsterdam, 1943, and Hanneke is rebelling against the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands by working the black market.

***Wolf Children* by Paul Dowswell**  – It is July 1945 and Berlin is in ruins. Living on the edge of survival in the cellar of an abandoned hospital, Otto and his ragtag gang of kids have banded together in the desperate, bombed-out city.

***If the dead rise not* by Philip Kerr** – crime fiction for older readers set in Berlin in 1934. As the city prepares to host the 1936 Olympics, Bernie is house detective at the famous Adlon Hotel when two bodies are found - one a businessman and the other a Jewish boxer. There are several other titles in this series if you like this.

***Goodnight, Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian** – A young evacuee leaves a terrible life and finds a loving home with a gruff, kindly man, but what will happen when he has to return home?

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak** – Narrated by death. Fostered, with parents taken away, a young book thief called Liesel lives in a community in Germany that death is visiting.

**From Russia, With Love by Ian Fleming (1957) -** Agent 007 is back battling a secret crime organization known as SPECTRE. Cold War drama at it’s best.

**The Calculus Affair by Hergé (1956) – The classic Tintin ‘graphic novel’**

**The Spy Who Came in from the Cold by John le Carré (1963) -** At the height of the Cold War, British spy Alec Leamas is nearly ready to retire, but first he has to take on one last dangerous assignment to East Germany.