

# History (AQA)

## Getting Ready for History

You can begin to build up your knowledge and understanding of the two main units in the A-Level Course: Russia 1855-1964 and the Wars of the Roses 1450-1499.

You can broaden your general knowledge and understanding of the past. In doing both of the above you will develop your appreciation of how the past is researched and presented by historians in articles, essays, books, podcasts and documentaries. You will see and hear lots of ways experts write and talk about the past and hopefully you will develop new ways to think, write and think yourself!

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## Unit 1H - Russia 1855-1964

(<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/specifications/AQA-7041-7042-SP-2015.PDF> SEE Unit 1H)

### Core Textbook

Corin and Fiehn - AQA A-level History: Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-level-History-Communist-1855-1964-ebook/dp/B00ZUWTWXY/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=corin+and+fiehn+tsarist&qid=1585859983&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-level-History-Communist-1855-1964-ebook/dp/B00ZUWTWXY/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=corin+and+fiehn+tsarist&qid=1585859983&sr=8-2)



As part of your A Level History course, you will study the history of Russia in the period 1855-1964.

The first half of the unit covers the reigns of the last three Tsars, Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II. This section culminates with the two revolutions in 1917 which result in the fall of tsars and the emergence of a Communist dictatorship.

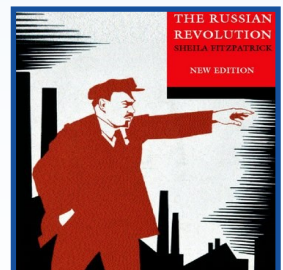
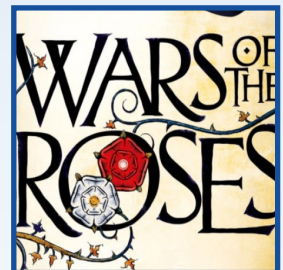
The second half of the unit covers life in Russia under the Communist regimes of Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev.

Throughout this unit we consider six key questions.

How was Russia **governed** and how did political authority change and develop?

- Why did **opposition** develop and how effective was it?
- How and with what results did the **economy** develop and change?
- What was the extent of **social** and **cultural** change?
- How important were **ideas** and ideology?
- How important was the role of **individuals** and **groups** and how were they affected by developments?

\*\*As you introduce yourself to the period using the resources below, you should keep the broad themes of these questions in mind. \*\*



# History

## Online documentaries and websites

An engaging starting point is the three-part documentary, Empire of the Tsars, presented by Lucy Worsley. This series covers the century before you course will start, but we think it really important that you are aware what has happened in Russia in the century preceding the start of your course in 1855.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73eaNrTX3CA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dyf3mjRjEKI>

<http://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=The%20Road%20to%20Revolution>

There is also series on You Tube called 'Russia – Land of the Tsars.' This has hours of episodes. The link below takes you to the episodes that link to period around where your course will begin.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXPP1j1yahg>

If you would like to see some of the broad developments that are relevant to the first half of the course, BBC Bitesize does have one section that gives a useful outline for you to read (however, this does not cover the 1855-1905 period in lots of depth)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zj72pv4>

## Books

If you wanted to buy or lend a good introductory text then the following are the most useful and accessible:

Martin Sixsmith - Russia: A 1,000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East (also available as a really fantastic audiobook)

Robert Service - The Penguin History of Modern Russia: From Tsarism to the Twenty-first Century

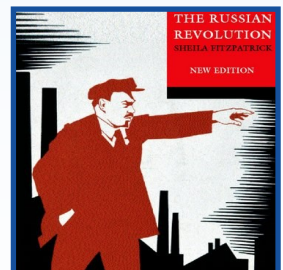
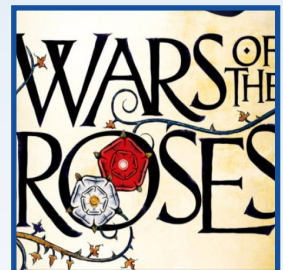
Orlando Figes - Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991: A Pelican Introduction

If you would like to read some historical fiction then the Moscow Trilogy by Simon Sebag Montifiore is a good place to start: 1. One Night in Winter 2. Sashenka 3. Red Sky at Noon.

For a good skim of the period, you could either listen or read Rupert Colley's The Russian Revolution (History in one Hour series)

## Unit 2B - Wars of the Roses 1450-1499

This option provides for the study-in-depth of a period of turbulence in British history, during which the authority of the monarch was questioned and the relationship between Church, State and the baronage was readjusted. It develops concepts such as authority, dynastic ambition and rebellion and encourages students to reflect on issues such as territorial integrity and what makes a 'state'.



# History

## Core Textbook

Fellows and Littler OCR A Level History: England 1445–1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/OCR-Level-History-1445-1509-Lancastrians/dp/1471836681/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=wars+of+the+roses+a+level&qid=1585860203&s=books&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/OCR-Level-History-1445-1509-Lancastrians/dp/1471836681/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=wars+of+the+roses+a+level&qid=1585860203&s=books&sr=8-1)

(you will notice this textbook is for Edexcel. Our exam board is AQA but we feel this textbook provides the best information for the course)



## Online resources

The website below is a great starting point to get into the Wars of the Roses:

<https://www.historyextra.com/tag/wars-of-the-roses/>

You can also listen to these two podcasts on the Wars of the Roses.

<https://youtu.be/kLIDHhIRxlc>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546sp>



## Drama

The Hollow Crown is a star-studded historical drama with Benedict Cumberbatch and Tom Hiddleston amongst other. It would be a really engaging introduction to give you a sense of period and a feel of the events. This is available on to buy or rent on a number of platforms such as You Tube and Amazon Prime video.

## Books

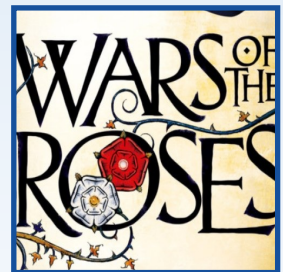
Alison Weir – Lancaster and York

Fiction - read Conn Iggulden's Stormbird Trilogy a set of historical novels that cover this period.

## Articles and essays -

We have put together a big pack of articles and essays that you may want to try reading. This will really give you a proper flavour of A level reading.

[https://swchs365-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/stfshcol\\_swchs\\_net/EuQQnxFDqmlIrwOrSjUWbwsBqxmjwuQoBA7raY9dmvS8Vw?e=IYbaVZ](https://swchs365-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/stfshcol_swchs_net/EuQQnxFDqmlIrwOrSjUWbwsBqxmjwuQoBA7raY9dmvS8Vw?e=IYbaVZ)



## **3.You can broaden your general knowledge and understanding of the past**

The two links below will take you to an array of BBC podcast series, programs and articles on all sorts of topics. Have a look and broaden your horizons. Each one that you read, watch or listen to will not only expand you knowledge and conceptual understanding, but will also help you develop your vocabulary and communication.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/category/history>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/genres/factual/history/player>

<https://www.historyextra.com/>

