

Top 10 Tips for A/A* in History GCSE

- Timing

This is key to help you achieve the highest grade. **Answer the big questions (16, 15 and 13 marks) first.**



- Bullet Points

Use the bullet points on the Q paper to help focus your answer, however you **must include at least 1 additional point (and PEE) of your own** for an A/A*.

- Chronology

Its History – you need to have a **full and accurate understanding of the order events happened in**. For example, the Ruhr was invaded and hyperinflation happened as a result, the Dawes Plan was before the Young Plan and both happened before the Wall Street Crash.



- Own knowledge

In source Qs on the Cold War and Britain papers you must use **your own knowledge to support the inferences you make** from each source in each question (apart from Q1). If you don't remember to do this you won't achieve a C let alone an A/A*.

- Conclusions!

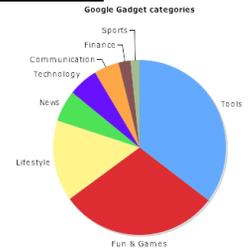
In the conclusions to your essay Qs (the 16, 15 and 13 mark ones) you must make a judgement that compares the importance of **more than 1 event** and if possible **make links between all 3 points**.

- Cold War Source Q – 10 marks

In the conclusion you must discuss how useful both sources are in combination – **not which is more useful than the other**. For example... *Source B is useful because it shows...however it is not completely reliable as it is from a Russian propaganda poster. Source C is from an American newspaper and so is also likely to be one sided, meaning that both sources used together are useful as their origin balances out*



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- Britain Final Q – 16 marks

For an A/A* you need to evaluate the reliability of your sources in your conclusion. For example... *Source D is the most reliable source used because it is from a newspaper meaning that the information is accurate but that it also shows how ordinary people at the time felt emotionally about the issue.*

- Categories!

When analysing the effects or impacts of an event it is a smart idea to organise your answers into categories such as **political, international, economic/money, military, social**. Think PIES/PIMMS!



- The 'BIG PICTURE'

You need to understand and be able **to analyse the impact of key events** and how they link to the rest of your course. For example, the Treaty of Versailles is the root of all of Weimar Germany's problems, the Cuban Missile Crisis leads to a reducing of tensions and period of détente.



- **WANT IT**

If you want an A/A* **you need to make it happen**. You need to attend revision sessions at lunch/afterschool and in half term holidays but, more importantly, you need to take responsibility for your own revision. This means answering exam Qs (and not just the easy ones!), making detailed revision notes and asking for help when you need it. It is hard work to achieve a the top grades in History but if you put the effort in you will have a grade to be very proud of for many years to come