

History A Level Summer Prep



Exam Board	OCR A Level (specification code H505) www.ocr.org.uk	
Units	Y108 – The Early Stuarts and the Civil Wars (Year 12) Y203 – The Crusades and the Crusader States 1095-1192 (Year 13) Y321 – The Middle East 1908-2011 (Year 12 and 13)	
How does the course begin?	<p><u>The Stuarts:</u> Overview of England in 1603. King James I – his experience as King James VI of Scotland, his personality.</p>	<p><u>The Middle East:</u> The Middle East today – brief overview. Islam and the Arab peoples. The decline of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20thC.</p>
Recommended preparatory reading/ activities.	<p><u>The Stuarts/Civil Wars:</u> General history of the period: ‘A Monarchy Transformed – Britain 1603-1714’ Mark Kishlansky. Short biographies of James I (T. Cogswell), Charles I (M. Kishlansky) and Oliver Cromwell (D. Horspool) in the ‘Penguin Monarchs’ series.</p> <p>BBC History Magazine Extra website (currently free) – lots of articles and podcasts on the period. BBC ‘In Our Time’ series, available as podcasts or listen direct on the website – lots of relevant episodes on the Stuarts, the Civil Wars, etc.</p> <p><u>The Middle East 1908-2011:</u> ‘Understand the Middle East’ by S Ross in the ‘Teach Yourself’ series is fairly accessible. ‘The Arabs’ by E. Rogan is a respected but more demanding read. There is a nice map activity at https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3049 Try to learn the geography of the Middle East! An introductory talk on the Middle East https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=1wo2TLIMhiw</p>	
Resources required	We do not require students to buy any textbooks, we will provide relevant materials.	