

History A Level

Transition Materials: Year 11 - 12

A Level History preparation

At A level, you will study the USSR, 1917-91 and the German Democratic Republic, 1949-90 in Year 12, and Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603 in Year 13. Here are some ways you can prepare for A level History by immersing yourself in wider material and developing and understanding of Year 12 content.

Read

Tarpoley Library has a range of reading material related to studying A level History, including literature on the USSR and GDR.

- The Shortest History of the Soviet Union, Sheila Fitzpatrick
- The Penguin History of Modern Russia: From Tsarism to the Twenty-first Century, Robert Service
- Beyond the Wall, Katjia Hoyer
- Born in the GDR, Hester Vaizey

There is a range of reading material available online, such as: [Soviet Union timeline - BBC News](#); ['Ostalgie' 25 years on](#); [The GDR - what life was like for people in East Germany](#).

Watch

There are some media you can watch to help you gain a broader understanding. The following series on Youtube provides a full overview of the history of the USSR in 100 minutes: [HISTORY OF RUSSIA IN 100 MINUTES - Full Video Course - YouTube](#). Series such as Chernobyl highlight the political failures, secrecy and human cost of the Soviet system. The series Deutschland 83, 86 and 89 depicts the GDR in the 1980s, amidst the background of the Cold War, in the build-up to its decline.

Listen

A lot of reading material is available in audio form, providing variety when you are preparing!

Along with this, Radio GDR provides analysis of life in the GDR through speaking to people who are interested in the country's history or lived there. You can also listen to: The Rest is History: Soviet Union; The Rest is History: The Fall of the Soviet Union; Real Dictators: Joseph Stalin.

Do

Whilst completing some of the other activities, make a note on the political, economic and social changes that occur in the USSR and GDR.

To support your chronological understanding of the 1900s, create a timeline of the key events of the USSR and GDR.