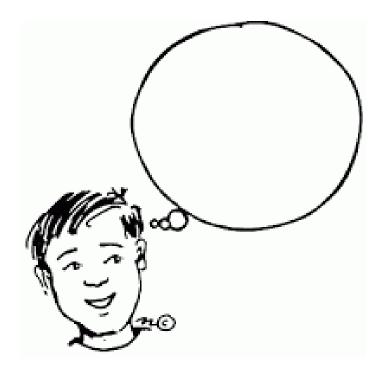
Sgoil Lionacleit The Student's Guide to National 5 History

How do I do the National 5 History Assignment?



A guide to writing your National 5 History Assignment.

You must show that you can:

- use information from sources consulted to support your chosen factors.
- use other knowledge to support the factors discussed
- explain how factors contributed
- organise your information into discrete sections
- evaluate the relative importance of factors in relation to your title.
- show balance within the essay and at least once within a factor.
- arrive at a reasoned conclusion, having made a relative judgement of the factors.

1. Q What title should I choose?

A Think of an area of the course which interested you: why Scots joined up in World War 1, why women got the right to vote, the reasons slavery was abolished, why Hitler rose to power.

You should then try to phrase your question so that it gives you scope to examine various aspects of your chosen topic. When historians look at events in history they can see different reasons why events happened. Often events happen because of a combination of factors.

We can make a comparison here with a judge who is trying to find out why a crime was committed and who was responsible. He will listen to several accounts from different points of view, before he comes to a conclusion.



You could choose one of these reasons (your chosen factor) And then identify 2-3 other possible causes to investigate.

Some possible topics to investigate.

Was a sense of adventure the main reason why many Scots joined up in 1914? The monotony of the soldier's routine was the worst aspect of life in the trenches during the Great War? To what extent were food shortages the main difficulty facing Scots on the home front? It was the work which women did during WW1 which finally won them the right to vote. How far would you agree with this statement? The fear of punishment made resistance very difficult for slaves on the plantations. To what extent was the success of the abolitionist campaign due to the work of William Wilberforce? To what extent was the work of the abolitionists the most important factor in bringing about the end of the slave trade? The Weimar government was severely handicapped because of its association with the Treaty of Versailles. It was the great depression which helped the Nazi party into power.

It was the Reichstag fire which helped the Nazi party into power.

It was the SA which helped the Nazi party into power.

2. Q Ok, I have chosen my topic. What do I do next? A Research

You must now select some **sources.** Internet sites can be good. You should also select one or two textbooks from the class or school library.

You should note each site and book you consult. You will note these on the **Resource Sheet** which you will submit with your assignment.

Often in your research you will come upon interesting facts or views. Note these down. 2 marks are awarded for information you have gathered from the sources you consulted.

3. Q How do I get going on the Assignment?A Write an introduction to your assignment.

Your introduction should:

- Place the topic in context.
- Describe the different factors you will discuss.
- 4. Q What comes after that? A Write your paragraphs.

Now it is time to write your essay. Deal with each factor in a separate paragraph. As you write you should **explain** how the factor has contributed. At the end of the paragraph you should write a sentence **evaluating** just what the contribution of that factor was.

When you go on to discuss a new factor, you should use indicator words: "Another factor which contributed to....." this will ensure you get the marks for presenting balance in your argument.

Be aware also of **balance within a factor**. Often, one factor may have had both positive and negative effects. Example-

"The suffragette campaign showed women in a positive light, as they were prepared to go to great lengths to gain the right to vote. While it created support for the cause of women and the vote, however it also attracted criticism. Many people felt that women, by their actions, were proving their unfitness, rather than their fitness to vote"

- 5. Q How do I write a conclusion? A Your conclusion should:
 - Assess the contribution of the different factors.
 - Decide which factor was most important.
 - Be supported with reasons.

So we need a paragraph which says..... "while factor w was important because...... and Factor X contributed....., there is no doubt that the most important factor was Factor Z because.....