

# Think Like a Historian



## Change & Continuity



**Change** describes how things become different over time - **continuity** describes how things stay the time over time

Change could be sudden, or gradual, and the **rate of change** could be constant, or fluctuating

Historians should consider how change and continuity are influenced by **historical context**, e.g. time period, location, culture, events

## Context & Argument



There is not one set narrative of history - historians often have conflicting opinions  
Historians need to back up their arguments and interpretations with **contextual evidence**

## Sources & Interpretations



**Primary sources** are the original documents that historians use to construct the past - **interpretations** are historians' constructions of the past

Historians should consider what sources' **content** can tell us about the past, and how its **provenance** and **context** might affect its accuracy and usefulness

Historians should also consider how provenance and context might influence historians' constructions of the past (interpretations)

## Causes & Consequences



**Causes** are the reasons why an event happened - **consequences** are the results of that event

They can be **short, medium or long term**

Each cause and consequence can have a different level of **importance** and can be **linked** - historians need to explain these relationships



## Significance

**Significance** is the level of **importance** assigned to something - how impactful or influential was it?

Significance can vary in the **short, medium or long terms**, and vary for different people

