

Exercise A: Reading

Why study history?

The following articles are responses from a TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) forum discussing whether history is important enough to be taught in schools.



Source 1: *Matthieu Miossec*

Apr 12 2012: History has a strong tendency to repeat itself. The most important lesson we can (and have to) learn from history is how to avoid making the same mistakes again. This is why we speak of a duty of **remembrance** with such things as the holocaust, forgetting it or trivialising it might lead to similar events in the future. It can also give a sense of **perspective** on human achievements and political relationships. In fact, can one truly make informed decisions about political affairs without a solid grounding in history? Many of the problems of the futures take root in the past. Can we hope to solve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict without a good **understanding** of how we got there in the first place? As for dinosaurs, who wouldn't want to learn about them!?

Source 2: *Christopher Lopez*

Apr 10 2012: History creates value and shapes our life. We make better decisions at knowing what all have done in the past. From bad to good, we live in a better life knowing history. History is a difficult subject to learn with all the names, dates, and material being covered. History is nice to read about since everything deals with it like languages, art, or sports. I think we should keep history as a subject because it makes us...think differently. It is what it is. I wish I was more into it. I do focus on other subjects at the library. There should be better ways at being engaged in a history course like more projects! There should be more history courses.

Source 3: *Ram mohan anantha pai*

Apr 8 2012: Can we be here (or anywhere) without the past? And whatever we think or talk about in the present (even about the future), is it not built on the foundation of **experience** from the past? That is why History is important. But the problem with us is that we learn our "History" and then instead of working on it, we want to either ignore it or completely falsify it. Is it not the information gained through History important and useful knowledge?

Source 4: *María Paula Valderrama*

Apr 7 2012: I think history is a very important subject in school, because it teaches us where we came from and who we are. That is very important in life, knowing the truth about the origin of life, of your life. Simply without history the future doesn't exist.

Exercise B: Comprehension

1. Do the four sources believe that History is an important subject to be taught at school?
2. What reasons does each source give?
3. Think of at least 2 other reasons why learning history is important. What are they?
4. Write your own response to 'Should History be taught in schools?' You can agree or disagree but remember to back up your opinion with facts.
5. Write the four words in **BOLD** into your glossary and provide a definition.

Exercise C: Cloze and Viewing

While watching the 'WHY STUDY HISTORY' YouTube clip; fill in the blanks using the information in the clip and the words in the **WORD BOX**. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgmNkYUL_Cw)

History is the window to the _____.

And studying the past is the key to understanding the _____.

It keeps us informed of current _____ as they unfold.

It helps us appreciate multiple _____ and _____.

Analyzing history strengthens our _____ thinking skills.

It trains us to gather _____ and to find _____ and trends.

You can apply _____ from the past to analyze and solve problems in the present.

It gives us an understanding of other people and _____.

It challenges us to think outside the box and to be _____.

Besides, studying history is fun.

History gives us the excitement of _____, and the reward of solving real-world problems.

WORD BOX

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Creative | Cultures |
| Critical | Discovery |
| Events | Evidence |
| Information | Interpretations |
| Past | Patterns |
| Perspectives | Present |

Exercise D: Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

Rewrite and fix the spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes in the following paragraph. There are 13 mistakes.

THE VALUE OF HISTORY

Some people question the need to understand the past But their are many very good reesons for studing history. Nowledge of history helps us to undrstand our heritage. We start to understand were our ideas, languages; laws and many other aspeks of our lives come from. We can also develop More open minds and lern to appreciate cultures that are diferent from our ouwn.