Year 10 History Vocabulary List

(Tier 2 and Tier 3)



Analyse – to break something down into its component parts in order to understand more about it

Capitalism – an economic ideology that encourages free enterprise in business, encourages profits and protects private property and ownership of business / land

Civil rights – the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality

Cold War – a state of conflict where one country does not engage in direct conflict with their enemy

Communism – a political ideology based on the writing of Karl Marx, where equality and community are fundamental to the way people live and are organised

Compare – to examine, or look for the similarities or differences between two or more events / individuals

Containment – the policy whereby the USA aimed to 'contain' the spread of Communism during the cold War

Cross-reference – comparing evidence with other evidence to check whether it is trustworthy

Democracy – a political ideology based on the idea that the people choose their government fairly and freely (from 'demos' the Greek word for people)

Dollar imperialism – the policy of using money, in this case American funding, to buy influence and control by lending / giving money and aid to other countries

Evaluate – to weigh up or judge the accuracy of something from the past

Evidence – clues left behind from the past that are used to help construct history

Expansionism – the policy of expanding a country's influence or control into other countries

Federal – a system of government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs

Inference – identifying the indirect message from a piece of evidence

Interpretation – a viewpoint / opinion of an event or individual from the past

Iron Curtain – the phrase coined by Winston Churchill to describe the increasingly closed border between Eastern and Western Europe during the Cold War

Isolationism – the policy of remaining apart from international foreign affairs; avoiding wars and conflicts

Judgement – reaching a logical conclusion that is persuasive and based on evidence

Laissez-faire – an economic policy that allows government to leave businesses alone, not interfere in the economy

Mass production – the production of goods, such as cars / radios / refrigerators, in such a high volume that the cost of producing them comes down

Prohibition – the restriction of the consumption (drinking), sale and transportation of alcohol in America

Provenance – the origin of a historical source (who made it / when was it made / why was it made)

Reliable – when an opinion or viewpoint is trustworthy

Soviet – relating to Russia, as in the Soviet Union, during the Cold War

Substantiated – based on evidence from the past, or based on the argument put forward by a historian