

Year 11 History Vocabulary List

(Tier 2 and Tier 3)



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

Anatomy – the study of the human body, usually informed by dissection and a practice that was almost entirely banned until the 1800s

Armada – a Spanish word for fleet of ships

Aseptic – where bacteria has been removed from an environment in order to reduce infection

Barber surgeon – someone who would carry out surgeries such as amputation of limbs, teeth extraction and stitching up wounds (often trained on the medieval battlefield)

Circumnavigation – to travel around the globe, Francis Drake was the first Englishman to do so in 1577

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

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

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

Excommunication – to be removed from the Catholic Church, it means that the person cannot receive the sacraments (and in the case of Elizabeth I, justified any attempt to kill her)

Galenic – related to the work of Galen, arguably the most important ancient physician (doctor)

Gentry – the middle class of the Elizabethan period

Inference – identifying the indirect message from a piece of evidence

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

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

Microbes – bacteria that exist in the atmosphere and cause disease. The discovery formed the basis of Louis Pasteur's 'germ theory'

Patronage – the act of sponsoring or giving rewards / titles to a supporter in return for their loyalty

Plots – schemes to kidnap or assassinate a monarch, in particular Elizabeth I

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

Puritanism – an extreme form of Protestantism that became popular in the later Elizabethan period

Quackery – the practice of selling and providing fake medicine or treatments

Reliable – when an opinion or viewpoint is trustworthy

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

Vaccination – also known as inoculation, a biological preparation that provides immunity from a disease (from the Latin word 'vacca' meaning cow)