

OUR DISCIPLINARY CONCEPTS (CORE)



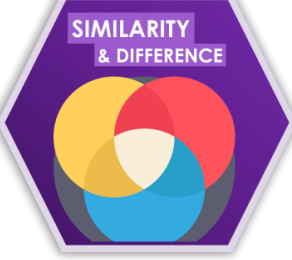

In History, it's not just about knowing what happened, but also about understanding how we know what happened and why it matters. This is where disciplinary concepts come in. They are the tools and methods historians use to study the past. By learning these concepts, you will develop the skills to think like a historian—questioning, analysing, and making sense of the evidence you encounter.





How Can Disciplinary Concepts Help You Progress in History?

1. **Develop Critical Thinking:** By using these concepts, you learn to analyse evidence, question assumptions, and think critically about the past. This makes you better at understanding complex ideas and making well-informed arguments.
2. **Enhance Research Skills:** Knowing how to find and interpret primary sources helps you become a more effective researcher. You'll learn to look for evidence, compare different types of sources, and understand how historians build their understanding of the past.
3. **Understand Connections:** Disciplinary concepts help you see the bigger picture by connecting different historical events and themes. You will learn to recognize patterns, see how events are linked, and understand the impact they have had over time.
4. **Communicate Effectively:** Using these concepts, you'll improve your ability to explain your ideas clearly, whether in writing or discussion. You will be able to make strong arguments and back them up with evidence, just like a professional historian.

Disciplinary concepts are the tools that make history meaningful and engaging. They will help you not only understand what happened in the past but also why it matters and how we can know about it. By using these concepts, you will become a more skilled historian, capable of exploring and explaining the complex story of our world.

Concept	Definition	Key features to look out for
 <p>CAUSE & CONSEQUENCE</p>	<p>Cause and consequence examine why historical events happened (causes) and what effects they had (consequences). This concept helps us understand the connections between events and how one event can lead to another, influencing the course of history.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate and Underlying Causes: Identify the direct events that triggered a historical moment, as well as the deeper, underlying factors that contributed over time. • Short-term and Long-term Consequences: Consider the immediate outcomes of an event and how its impact might have changed or grown over time. • Interconnectedness: Understand how events are linked. Look for how one event might set off a chain reaction, leading to multiple consequences. • Perspective: Recognize that different people and groups may experience and interpret causes and consequences differently. Consider the point of view of various stakeholders involved.
 <p>CHANGE & CONTINUITY</p>	<p>Change and continuity explore what has changed and what has stayed the same over time. This concept helps us see the evolution of societies, ideas, and institutions, as well as the enduring aspects that remain constant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning Points: Identify key events or moments that led to significant changes. Look for shifts in power, social structures, or cultural practices. • Patterns of Continuity: Notice what has remained the same despite changes. Consider traditions, beliefs, or practices that have persisted over long periods. • Rate of Change: Consider how quickly or slowly changes occurred. Some changes may be gradual and subtle, while others are rapid and dramatic. • Impact of Change: Evaluate how changes have affected people's lives, societies, and historical outcomes. Consider both positive and negative impacts.
 <p>SIMILARITY & DIFFERENCE</p>	<p>Similarity and difference involve comparing different historical events, periods, or societies to identify what they have in common and what sets them apart. This concept helps us understand diversity and commonality across time and place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative Analysis: Look at different historical examples side by side to identify similarities and differences. Consider aspects like culture, governance, social structures, or economic systems. • Context: Understand the context in which similarities and differences occurred. Recognize how geography, time period, and external influences shape outcomes. • Significance of Differences: Consider why differences matter. How do they affect the development of societies or the course of historical events? • Common Patterns: Identify recurring themes or practices across different contexts. Look for shared human experiences or universal challenges.
 <p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE</p>	<p>Historical significance involves determining which events, people, or developments have had a lasting impact on history and why they are remembered and studied. This concept helps us focus on what matters most in the past and how it shapes the present and future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact: Assess how the event or person affected society, both immediately and over the long term. Look for changes in laws, social norms, or daily life. • Duration: Consider how long the impact of the event or person was felt. Did it lead to ongoing changes or inspire future movements or ideas? • Relevance: Think about whether the event or person continues to be relevant today. Does it still influence current events, debates, or cultural practices? • Recognition: Look at how the event or person has been remembered and commemorated over time. Are there monuments, holidays, or educational curricula dedicated to them?

Concept	Definition	Key features to look out for
	<p>Primary sources are original materials or evidence from the time being studied. They provide firsthand accounts or direct evidence of historical events, people, or ideas. Examples include letters, diaries, photographs, official documents, artifacts, and other physical items.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provenance: Analyse the origin of the source, including who created it, when, and why. Understanding the provenance helps assess the reliability and utility of the source. • Nature, Origin, and Purpose: Evaluate the type of source (nature), its creator and context (origin), and the reason it was created (purpose). This approach helps identify the intended audience and possible bias. • Content and Contextual Knowledge: Cross-reference the information within the source with your contextual knowledge of the period to assess its accuracy and relevance. This includes identifying specific details, events, or figures mentioned in the source. • Inference: Draw inferences from the source by reading between the lines to understand the deeper implications or sentiments expressed. This skill is crucial for gaining insights into the perspectives and experiences of people from the past.
	<p>Historical interpretations are the different ways historians understand and explain past events. These interpretations can vary based on the evidence available, the historian's perspective, and the context in which the history is written.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of Interpretations: Compare different historical interpretations to understand how and why they may differ. Look for varying perspectives, arguments, and conclusions drawn by historians. • Context of Interpretation: Consider the context in which a historian is writing, including the time period, cultural background, and available evidence. This helps explain why certain interpretations might change over time. • Evaluation of Evidence: Assess the evidence that different historians use to support their interpretations. Determine how the selection, emphasis, or omission of evidence affects the interpretation. • Challenge and Support: Be able to challenge or support interpretations using your knowledge of the period and by citing specific evidence. This skill is important for forming well-rounded, critical analyses of historical events.