

OUR SUBSTANTIVE CONCEPTS (CORE)

In History, we study more than just events and dates; we explore the big ideas that connect these events and help us understand the past. These big ideas are called *substantive concepts*.





By focusing on these concepts, you will learn how different events, people, and places are connected across time. Understanding these connections helps you see the bigger picture and makes history more meaningful and interesting. For example, when you learn about different rulers or wars, you'll start to notice patterns in how people gain power, what causes conflicts, and how societies change.

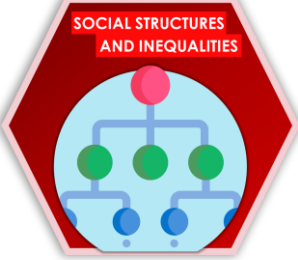







How Can Substantive Concepts Help You Progress in History?

1. **Deepen Your Understanding:** Substantive concepts help you understand why things happened, not just *what* happened. This deeper understanding will make it easier for you to remember historical events and see how they are relevant today.
2. **Develop Critical Thinking:** By exploring themes like power or inequality, you will learn to ask important questions about the past and present. This will help you think critically about the world around you and form your own opinions based on evidence.
3. **Connect Different Topics:** Substantive concepts act like a thread that connects different historical topics. Whether you're learning about the Romans, the Normans, or World War II, you can use these concepts to compare and contrast different periods and places. This will help you see patterns and make connections, which are key skills in history.
4. **Improve Your Writing and Arguments:** Understanding these concepts will help you write better essays and make stronger arguments. When you can explain how a concept like "power and authority" has changed over time or why it matters, you are showing a higher level of understanding and analysis.

Substantive concepts are the big ideas that make history come alive. They will help you see the connections between different events, understand why things happened, and think critically about the past. By using these concepts, you will become a better historian, able to explore and explain the world's rich and complex history.

Concept	Definition	Key features to look out for
	<p>Power and authority refer to the ways in which individuals or groups gain control over others, maintain their dominance, or face challenges to their rule. This can occur in political, social, or economic settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How leaders or rulers come to power (e.g., elections, inheritance, coups). • Methods used to maintain power (e.g., laws, propaganda, military force). • How and why people or groups challenge authority (e.g., protests, revolutions). • The impact of power dynamics on different groups in society.
	<p>This concept focuses on understanding the reasons behind conflicts between individuals, groups, or nations, as well as the nature of these conflicts and the outcomes. It also looks at how cooperation and diplomacy are used to avoid or resolve conflicts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of conflict (e.g., competition for resources, ideological differences). • Types of warfare and military strategies used. • Outcomes of conflicts and their impact on societies. • Examples of cooperation and peaceful resolutions (e.g., alliances, treaties).
	<p>This involves studying how different ideologies, religious beliefs, intellectual thoughts, and cultural attitudes influence historical events and societal norms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key ideas and philosophies that shaped historical periods (e.g., democracy, communism). • The role of religion in society and politics. • How cultural beliefs influence people's actions and reactions. • The spread and change of ideas over time.
	<p>Economic systems refer to the ways societies organize the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. This includes understanding trade, resource management, and economic structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of economic systems (e.g., feudalism, capitalism, socialism). • How trade is conducted and its impact on societies. • The role of different classes in economic activities. • Economic causes of major historical events (e.g., the Industrial Revolution).

Concept	Definition	Key features to look out for
	<p><i>This concept examines how societies are organized into different classes or groups and the inequalities that arise from these structures, such as differences in wealth, gender roles, and access to power.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization of societies (e.g., aristocracy, peasantry, middle class). • Gender roles and expectations in different historical contexts. • Examples of social inequalities and their impacts. • Movements or events aimed at challenging or changing social structures.
	<p><i>Cultural expression refers to the ways in which people express their beliefs, values, and experiences through art, literature, music, and other cultural forms. It reflects and helps shape historical contexts.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important works of art, literature, and music from different periods. • How cultural achievements reflect the society of the time. • The influence of cultural expressions on people's thoughts and behaviours. • The role of cultural expression in preserving or challenging traditions.
	<p><i>This concept explores how advancements in technology and science have impacted societies, economies, and daily life throughout history.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major technological and scientific inventions (e.g., the printing press, steam engine). • How innovations changed daily life and work. • The impact of scientific discoveries on how people view the world. • The relationship between technology, economy, and power.
	<p><i>Identity looks at how historical events and movements have shaped how people see themselves and others, including aspects like nationality, race, and gender.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How identities are formed and expressed (e.g., through language, symbols). • The impact of historical events on national or group identity (e.g., independence movements). • Issues related to race, gender, and ethnicity in different periods. • Conflicts and cooperation based on identity.

Concept	Definition	Key features to look out for
	<p>Migration and displacement study the movement of people from one place to another, whether by choice or by force, and how these movements affect cultures, economies, and societies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for migration (e.g., economic opportunities, conflict, natural disasters). • The experience of migrants and displaced people. • The impact of migration on both sending and receiving societies. • Historical patterns of migration and their long-term effects.
	<p>Global interactions refer to the ways in which different cultures and civilizations have exchanged ideas, goods, and technologies, influencing each other's development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key events or periods of significant global exchange (e.g., Silk Road, Age of Exploration). • The influence of one culture on another through trade, conquest, or diplomacy. • The positive and negative impacts of these interactions (e.g., cultural enrichment, colonization). • The role of globalization in shaping the modern world.