

## How do I prepare for studying History at University?

The following links are useful to get you ready for studying History at university. Whilst all your History course will vary in terms of topics and content you study, style of learning will be very similar.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/modern/tips-study-history-university-undergraduate-what-expect-how-prepare/>

<https://www.history.org.uk/higher-ed/resource/5700/what-to-expect-when-you-choose-to-study-history-at>

**Key to success will be to read a wide and varied range of History books** on topics you enjoy or are new to you. Every university will have some recommendations too, so check out your university course for ideas. Here is a good example from the University of Nottingham

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/humanities/departments/history/week-one/preparing-to-study-history.aspx>

I think in the current climate, with all the conspiracy theory nonsense surrounding COVID 19, it would be highly useful to remind ourselves of why History is an intellectual pursuit driven by the quality of reliable evidence.

**You have to be very careful not believe everything you read and be sure that the source of information is credible** and not some lunatic with an axe to grind against the government/BBC or 5G masts!! ☺

**I highly recommend the following** book as one of the best in showing why conspiracy theories simply do not stand up to scrutiny. It covers a range of conspiracy theories that will interest you but will also remind you of all those skills in source evaluation that you need to deploy when trying to explain complex events of the past. It is also available as an audio book.

**David Aaronovitch** book '*Voodoo Histories*' - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Voodoo-Histories-Conspiracy-Theory-History/dp/009947896X>

I have just bought this book by **Quassim Cassam** – *Conspiracy Theories (THINK)* - it also has some free chapters to read.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Conspiracy-Theories-THINK-Quassim-Cassam-ebook/dp/B07ZXHN98K/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?dchild=1&keywords=conspiracy+theories&qid=1587475612&sr=books&sr=1-4](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Conspiracy-Theories-THINK-Quassim-Cassam-ebook/dp/B07ZXHN98K/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=conspiracy+theories&qid=1587475612&sr=books&sr=1-4)

There are also numerous online History journals and podcasts that will keep your mind active. YouTube has loads of documentaries to watch that you simply search on whatever key term or topic you are interested in.

**Best podcasts** can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/category/history>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dh5yg/episodes/downloads>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07mdbhg/episodes/downloads>

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All the best

Mr Furlong