

Why Study A Degree in History?

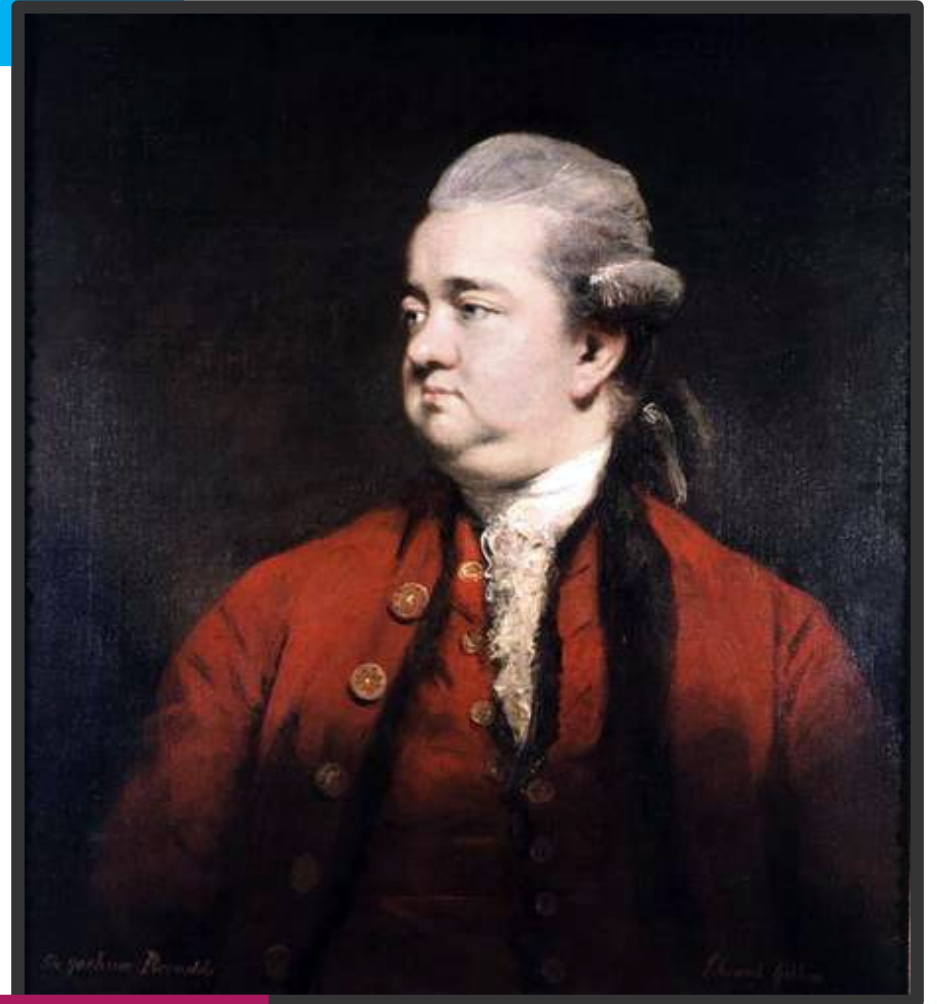


Why study a degree in History?

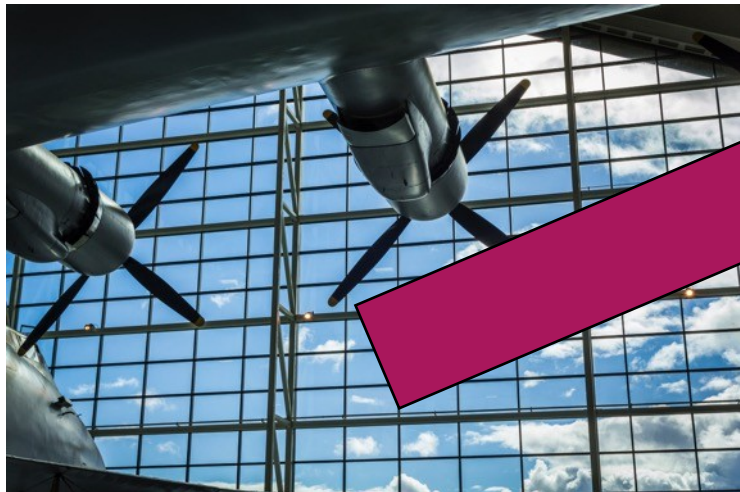
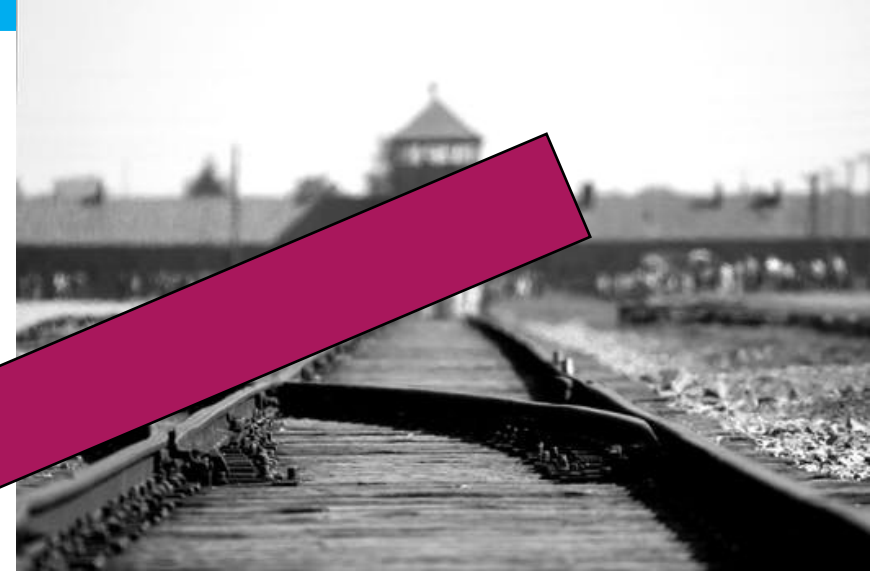
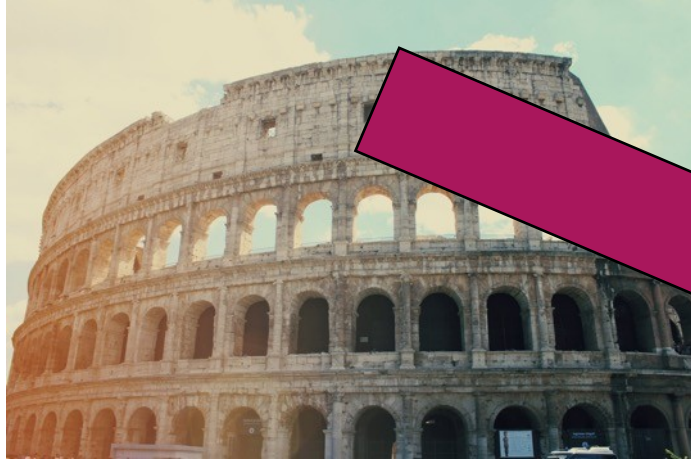
According to the 18th-century politician Edward Gibbons, History is...

"little more than the register of crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind"

Surely he can't be right, can he?



Before we begin, what is compulsory History in a History degree?



Before we begin, what is compulsory History in a History degree?

- **NOTHING** is compulsory.
- History is a vast subject, far larger than most others.
- At degree level this vastness is magnified.
- The ability to specialise is a unique aspect that very few other subjects can offer.



So if nothing is the same, then surely all History degrees are different?

- In terms of content – **yes they are.**
- In terms of skills – **absolutely not.**
- This is why it's important to discuss each aspect separately.



What
History
modules
are on offer
at
universities





Just some of the individual modules on offer across UK universities.

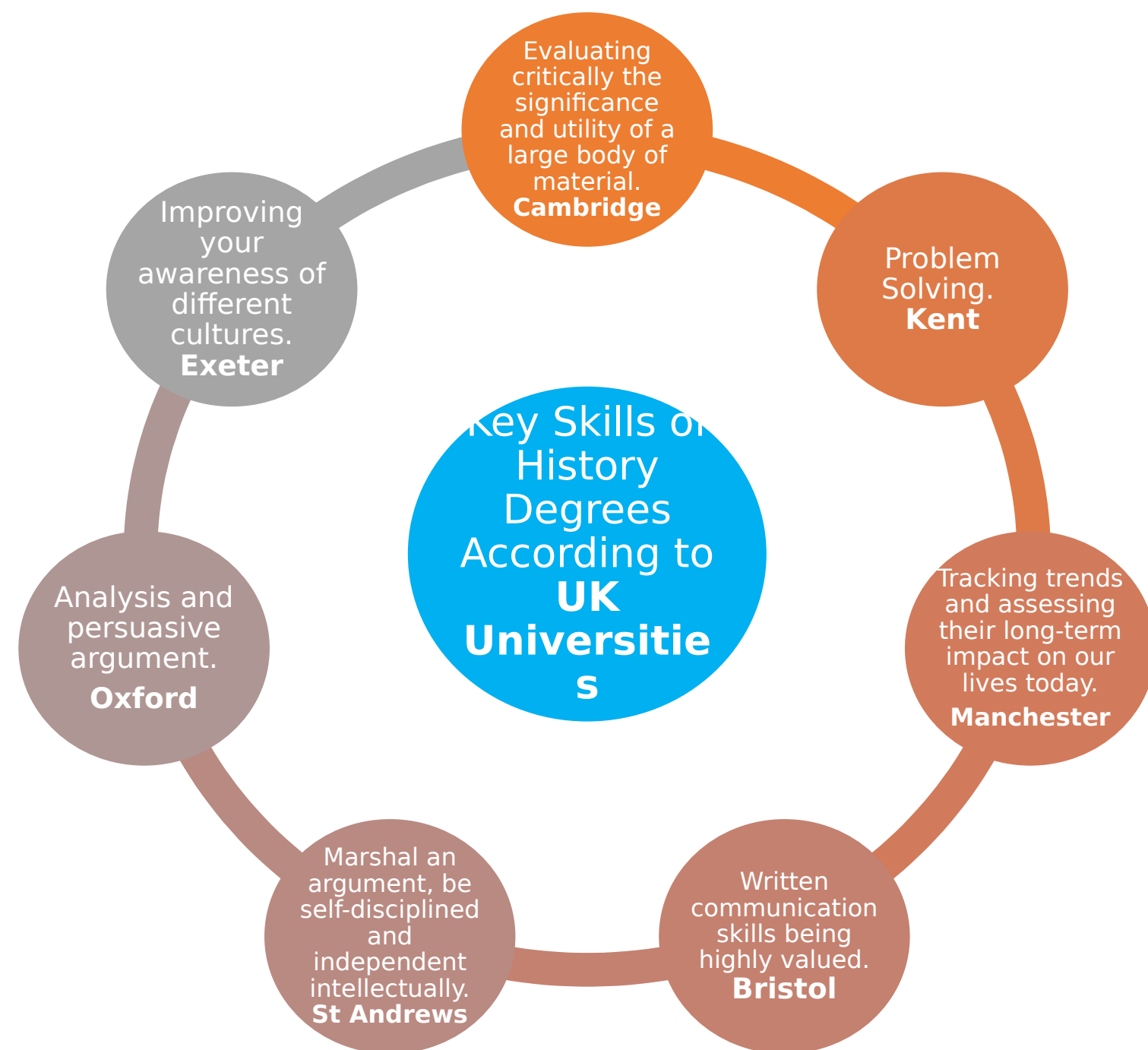
Please note these are just modules which make up a far larger course.



So what **skills** are covered in a History degree?

- This is more consistent than the content.
- Individual universities will put more emphasis on certain skills.
- But all History courses will help you develop these common traits...





Again, just some of the key skills which are continually used, assessed and enhanced as part of a wider History degree course.

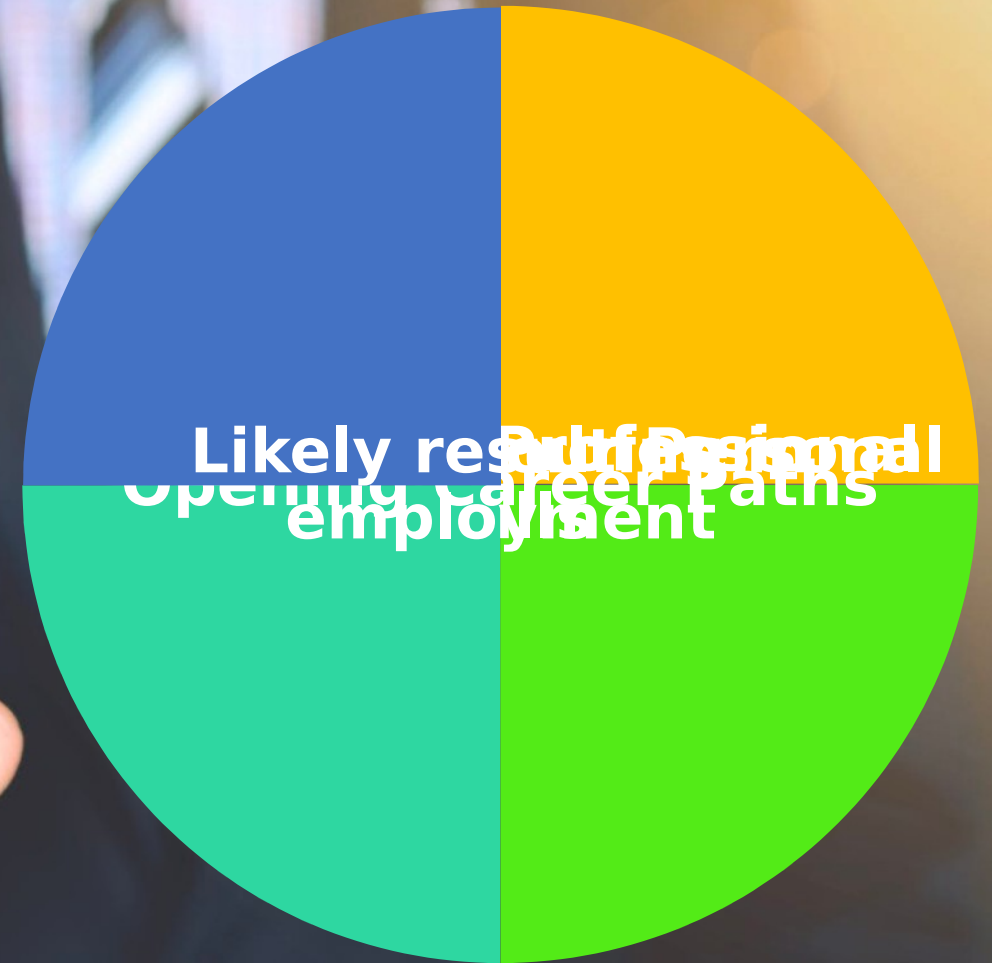
Why is History called a 'Facilitating Subject'?

- This term was created by the Russell Group.
- They are a group representing 24 leading UK Universities including Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Birmingham, Cardiff and Edinburgh.
- According to the Russell Group...



But what will all this do for me?

- A History degree offers you a chance to **continue with a passion** for at least three more years.
- As well as...



What will all this do for my **development of personal skills?**

- **Improve your LORIC**

- **Leadership** – History is not something you can be led through. It requires individuals to take command of their own views and apply their own criteria in making a judgement.
- **Organisation** – Historians are required to learn a huge body of knowledge and then selectively sort through it for specific enquiries.
- **Resilience** – History is continually changing. The nature of academic History means even professional historians need to revise their work and amend the findings of years of prior research.

Initiative – The most renowned historians are those who have used initiative to find new evidence, or to apply unique criteria to prior research to form new ideas and understanding of the past.

Communication – A History degree will require you to communicate your findings in a range of ways. These can include but are not limited to short essays, extended essays, visual presentations, audio presentation, as a team, individually and many more

What will all this do for my development of **professional skills**?

According to the CBI Confederation of British Industry, in a recent survey of Employer Satisfaction with School/College Leavers' Skills* the following was identified:

- 33% described themselves as not satisfied with basic literacy and use of English skills
- 40% described themselves as not satisfied with problem solving skills
- 46% described themselves as not satisfied with Communication skills
- 51% described themselves as not satisfied with skills of analysis
- 56% described themselves as not satisfied with international cultural awareness

* (Exhibit 2.3 Employer satisfaction with school/college leavers' skills (%) HELPING THE UK THRIVE CBI/PEARSON EDUCATION AND SKILLS SURVEY 2017, -JULY 2017, page 30)

* Informed Choices A Russell Group guide to making decisions about post-16 education, Russell Group , 2017/18 Sixth Edition page 29)



What will all this do for my development of **professional skills?**



Improving
your
awareness of
different
cultures.
Exeter

Analysis and
persuasive
argument.
Oxford

Marshal an
argument, be
self-disciplined
and
independent
intellectually.
St Andrews

Written
communicatio
n skills being
highly valued.
Bristol

Tracking trends
and assessing
their long-term
impact on our
lives today.
Manchester

Problem
Solving.
Kent

Evaluating
critically the
significance
and utility of a
large body of
material.
Cambridge

Key Skills of
History
Degrees
According to
UK
Universities

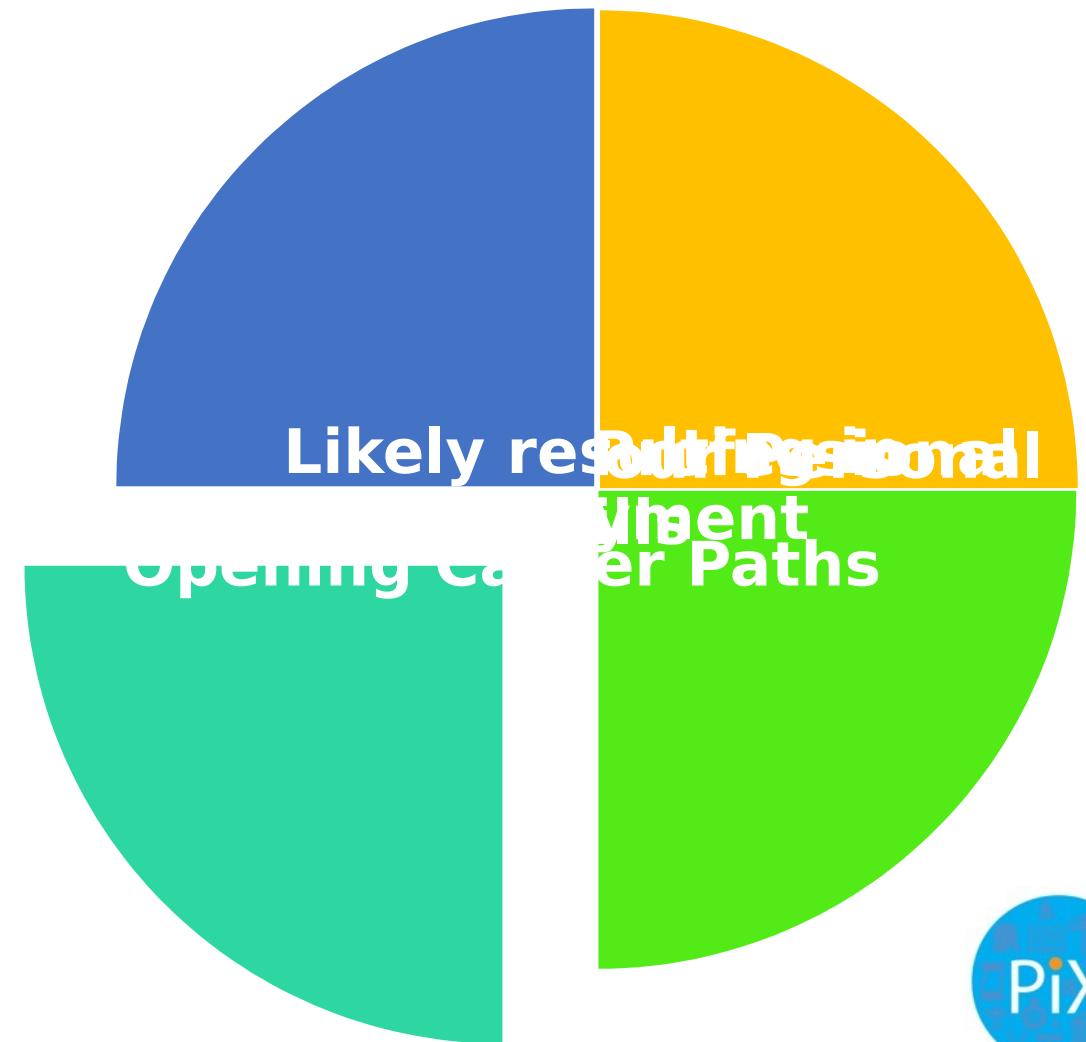
TASK:

List down as many jobs as you can that History could support



What career paths will it open for me?

- Many people ask “where does History lead to?”
- It’s important to remember History is a facilitating subject.
- What makes it facilitating, can also make it seem like it has very few direct career pathways.
- **This simply is not true.**
- We’ve established the wide range of skills History offers.
- So rather than considering a career in History, you should consider careers that will suit a competent historian...



What career paths will it open for me?

Teaching in schools.

Archaeology, architecture and Conservation.

Law and Justice.

Media (e.g. Historical set advisor).

Conservation work with heritage sites.

Civil Service, Politics and Local Government.

Archiving, libraries and universities.

Investigative journalism.

Museum curator/ educational guide.



History Degree is

History Degree is

History Degree is Useful

How likely will it result in my employment?

- It's very hard to say what a degree will likely lead to.
- A range of factors affect peoples' employment.
- These include but are not limited to life choices (i.e. migration/family planning), location, experience, educational provider, etc.)



How likely will it result in my employment?

- However, in 2018 the Department for Education published a report looking into graduate outcomes.*
- The DfE report found that the number of History graduates in sustained employment was:
- **84.4%** after 1 year, **84.2%** after 5 years and **81.6%** after 10 years.
- The report also found the median annual wage of History & Politic graduates was:
- **£17,400 after 1 year, £25,400 after 5 years and £29,300 after 10 years.**
- These figures were from 2015 when the national average wage was £27,456.**



**Department of Education, Graduate Outcomes (LED) Employment and Earning Outcomes of Higher Education Graduates by Subject Studied and Graduate Characteristics, SDR 15/2018, published 15th March 2018 page 22*

***Department of Education, Graduate Outcomes (LED) Employment and Earning Outcomes of Higher Education Graduates by Subject Studied and Graduate Characteristics, SDR 15/2018, published 15th March 2018 page 24.*

*** Office of National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2015 Provisional Results, released 18th November 2015.*

So why study a degree in History?

Edward Gibbon was wrong
when he said History is...

**"little more than the
register of crimes,
follies, and
misfortunes of
mankind"**



A degree in History will...

...enable you to
study
specific topics from
a discipline that is
one of the most
varied and diverse
of all.



A degree in History will...

...enable you to
develop an
extensive range
of skills that are
desired by
employers in the
UK.



A degree in History will...

...most of all, make
you a more
rounded, well-
educated person
with multiple
options and a
bright future.





So why not make the PAST....
your FUTURE!

If you want to find out more here are some links to websites with more ideas and information;

<https://royalhistsoc.org/>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/history>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/history/seven-reasons-to-study-history/>

Article on why history matters;

https://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/why_history_matters.html

Commissioned by The PiXL Club Ltd. May 2019

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold, or transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with, or endorsed by, any other company, organisation or institution. These papers were made by teachers in good faith based upon our understanding to date.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification.