



### HOW TO achieve well at HISTORY GCSE

- Learn what to do for each question and follow these rules/guidelines in the exam
- Explain 3 or more reasons/factors in an essay. DON'T just focus on the one mentioned in the question.
- Try and come to a conclusion in an essay to sum up your answer, that answers the question – do you agree or disagree with the interpretation.
- Learn between 5 and 10 facts (DATES, NAMES and PLACES) for each topic e.g. mountain men, medical Renaissance etc.
- When examining sources in the American West paper, think TIME, AUTHOR and PLACE (TAP).
- Explain your answers using complex sentences and phrases such as ...

... This meant that, this led on to, because, therefore, so, ... This infers that ... Furthermore

- In an essay, come to a conclusion to judge or evaluate the most important reasons/factors

### To go even further...



- Explain all the relevant reasons/factors in an essay. DON'T just focus on the one in the question.
- Try to use PEEL in the long essay questions
- In an essay, come to a conclusion to judge or evaluate the most important reasons/factors.
- In the essay conclusion, make sure you answer the question – so agree or disagree with the interpretation.
- Link the reasons/factors together and explain these links. Do this at the beginning of a new paragraph to show that your answer flows and is well organised.
- Learn off by heart all the relevant DATES, NAMES and PLACES for each topic.
- Make complex inferences.
- When analysing the usefulness of sources, think not only about the content but also the provenance (TAP) or attribution of the source (the extra bit of information that tells you about the source).
- Don't become bogged down in a low mark question. If you know timing is an issue for you, then start with the longer answers and go back to the shorter ones.
- Ensure you are answering the question and not just telling the examiner everything you know about the topic. As you write your answer, keep looking back at the question to check you are on the right track.
- For the interpretation question (American West q 2/3c), as well as discussing the range of factors and which is more important, remember to conclude whether you agree with the interpretation or not, and try to explain why the interpretation was written (audience in particular). Only take a couple of sentences on this