

What's the Point in



History?

To help you understand the value of history, we've spoken to a number of professionals who still use the skills, qualities and knowledge they gained from the subject at school in the work they do today. Turn over to find out who they are, what they do and what they had to say....

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The Self-Employed Director

From my History studies, I learned how to communicate effectively, how to put together a convincing argument, and how to influence and persuade people. I learned how to distinguish fact from opinion, and why 'Fake News' can be so dangerous. These are invaluable lessons, for which I remain grateful every day.

Rosie Nice, self-employed Director at ESB Training

The Business Support Manager

Studying History at GCSE and A-level gave me the skills to examine a range of sources in relation to their reliability, usefulness, and overall impact. This has been particularly useful when briefing Ministers and Officials in my role. I would highly recommend History as a subject as it also allows you to look at various topics from a historical perspective and learn from previous examples, allowing us to move forward as a community and as a country.

Adele Harbor, Business Support Manager at the Cabinet Office

The Project Manager

I studied History at A-Level and at university, and I feel that it is a subject that gives you a wide view of the world we live in. I studied History in order to teach it but since then I have gone on to do several different jobs in which I have met people from all over the world. Having a good knowledge of world history has given me the empathetic skills to understand people, their cultures, and current world affairs.

Apinder Sidhu, Project Manager at Silver Lining Events and Project Management

The Journalist

In History at school, I loved the idea that different people's memories and experiences of the same event could be so vastly different, and could be judged so differently by history. To this day, it has helped inform the way I approach my career in journalism – I always remember to look for more than one perspective on events and stories so that I paint a picture as truthfully as human history will allow.

Faye Raincock, Independent Journalist and TV Producer at fern Media

The Director of Education

Studying History allows us to put our current world into perspective and helps us to view issues as part of a "bigger picture". There is no doubt that when travelling both for business and for pleasure that I am able to enjoy countries more because I understand the troubles, successes and politics that have affected the country. This has also enabled me to better understand the culture from a business perspective, and therefore how to work with different nationalities. I know that it is a cliché that "history keeps repeating itself" but it is also very true, and studying History helps you to understand people and the issues that motivate them, as well as your ability to read and evaluate situations.

Julia von Klonowski, Director of Education for EMEA

The Set Designer

As a set and costume designer for theatre, historical research is a big part of my work. For any show I need to understand the historical world it is about and the world from which it was written. The key skills of historical research and analysis help me every day to gain a richer understanding and create springboards for my design work.

David Farley, self-employed Set Designer

The Operations Manager

The study of History can be very helpful in business because it helps you to understand cause and effect, and the consequences of actions. It also gives you the skills to look for information and critically analyse it. Many issues in modern business, such as Corporate Social Responsibility, have roots in the past (including slavery, child labour, sustainability, and inequality), while economic theory has historical origins. To understand the events of the past helps us to rationalise current events and put it into context.

Susan Godfrey, Procurement Performance and Operations Manager at The Post Office

The Head of International Relations

History is the record of what has happened, when it happened, who was involved, and the outcome. History helps us to decide if we want to do the same or different in the future. My role as a land consultant means that I have to understand the history of land ownership and how the land has been used so that we can make the right decisions which will protect land for future generations.

Julie Barry, Head of International Relations at Land Registry

The Deputy Director

My job requires me to write well-argued documents of various kinds; these often need to establish facts. Studying History gave me the ability to weigh up different sources and assess their credibility, such as eye witness accounts in comparison to second-hand accounts of an event, in order to build an accurate picture. Reading sources and essay writing also support my verbal reasoning. All of these are fundamental skills for my job.

Fiona Hesketh, Deputy Director at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Policy Adviser

As a civil servant, I regularly use the skills I gained from studying History. History teaches you how to present arguments clearly and persuasively, and how to do so in a structured manner. It also teaches you how to consider different perspectives and reach a balanced judgement based on the evidence given. These are skills I use all the time when advising ministers (to help them make choices that will affect the British public), whether writing advice for ministers to read, or delivering verbal advice.

Alexander Kay, Policy Adviser at the Cabinet Office



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