

Historical
concepts at



Historical Concepts



History is far more than a mere chronological record of events; it's a dynamic and multifaceted field that requires an in-depth understanding of both disciplinary and substantive concepts.

At St Stephen's, we have tailored the teaching of these historical concepts to suit our unique educational approach and the needs of our students. We have segmented these broad concepts into more focused themes to facilitate a deeper and more structured learning experience.

- **Substantive concepts:** Community and culture, conflict and disaster, exploration and invention, and hierarchy and power
- **Disciplinary concepts:** Cause and consequence, continuity and change, chronology, evidence and interpretation, significance, and similarity and difference

Each of our substantive concepts are further broken down into subcategories.

The following pages provide the following to support teaching and learning.

- Concept definitions
- Concept subcategories
- Concept progression maps



Substantive Concepts



Community and Culture

This concept reflects the collective life and shared characteristics of groups of people, bound together by common practices, beliefs, or interests. Community refers to the social structure that binds people together, which could range from small groups such as families or neighbourhoods to larger entities like cities or nations. It's about how people interact, form relationships, and create a sense of belonging. Culture, on the other hand, represents the ideas, customs, social behaviours, and creative expressions of these communities.

We have broken it down into the following categories:



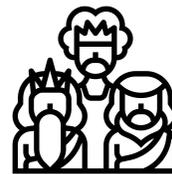
Civilisation



Diversity



Economy



Religion



Settlement



Trade



Substantive Concepts

 Civilisation	<p>Civilisation in history refers to complex societies characterised by urban development, structured governance, written language, and advances in arts and sciences. These societies are known for their social hierarchies and labor divisions. Historically, civilisations have significantly shaped social, cultural, and political landscapes, influencing technological, economic, and artistic developments.</p>
 Diversity	<p>Historically, diversity encompasses differences in race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, language, and religion within and between societies. Understanding diversity is key to exploring social dynamics, cultural exchanges, and conflicts throughout history. It highlights the varied contributions and interactions of different groups across eras.</p>
 Economy	<p>The economy historically refers to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services within societies. It includes the utilisation of resources, creation and distribution of wealth, and the role of markets and governments. The study of historical economies reveals the values, technological progress, and social structures of different periods.</p>
 Religion	<p>In history, religion consists of beliefs, practices, and structures related to spirituality or divinity. It has profoundly influenced culture, art, law, and social structures, serving as a source of ethical guidance, community, and sometimes a catalyst for conflict and change, thus shaping historical developments.</p>
 Settlement	<p>A settlement is historically a place where people establish residences, from small villages to large cities. Settlements typically form around resources like water and fertile land. Their study involves examining locations, reasons for establishment, and evolution, reflecting socio-economic and cultural changes over time.</p>
 Trade	<p>Trade is the exchange of goods and services among people or entities. It has been essential for human interaction, enabling the movement of goods, ideas, and cultural practices across regions and civilisations. Trade has been pivotal in developing economies, diplomatic relations, and spreading technology and culture, illustrating the interconnectedness of cultures through history.</p>



Substantive Concepts



Conflict and Disaster

Conflict and Disaster encompass the broad range of adversarial and catastrophic events that have historically impacted societies and shaped human experiences. Conflict refers to the clashes and struggles resulting from opposing interests, ideologies, or actions, often manifesting in military confrontations, political strife, or social unrest. Disaster encompasses both natural and human-made calamities, such as earthquakes, famines, pandemics, or environmental crises, which disrupt societies and pose significant challenges to human resilience and adaptation.

We have broken it down into the following categories:

				
Destruction	Invasion	Military	Peace	War

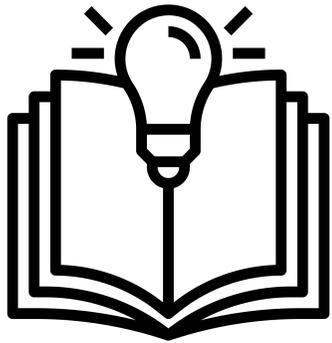


Substantive Concepts

 Destruction	<p>Destruction in history typically refers to the extensive damage or annihilation caused by conflicts or disasters. This includes the destruction of infrastructure, cultural heritage, and loss of human life. Teaching about the destructive aspects of history allows students to understand the profound impacts of wars and conflicts on societies, economies, and environments, and fosters a deeper appreciation of the human cost of conflict.</p>
 Invasion	<p>Invasion refers to the act of entering another country or territory by military force, typically with the intent of conquest or occupation. In historical teaching, it's important to explore the causes, processes, and impacts of invasions, as they have often led to significant changes in territorial boundaries, governance, and cultural exchanges. Understanding invasions helps students grasp the complex interplay of political, economic, and cultural factors that drive conflicts between nations or societies.</p>
 Military	<p>The military concept encompasses the armed forces of a nation, responsible for defence and warfare. In a historical context, the study of the military includes examining its organisation, strategy, and role in both national defence and offensive operations. Teachers can use the study of military history to help students understand the evolution of warfare, the impact of technological advancements, and the ethical dimensions of military conflicts.</p>
 Peace	<p>Peace is the state of tranquillity or quietness, typically marked by the absence of conflict or war. In a historical teaching context, peace includes the study of how conflicts are resolved, peace treaties are negotiated, and efforts to build lasting stability and harmony. Exploring the concept of peace helps students to appreciate the value of diplomacy, conflict resolution, and the importance of maintaining harmonious international relations.</p>
 War	<p>War is a state of armed conflict between different countries or different groups within a country. In teaching history, war is a key concept for understanding the dynamics of power, territorial disputes, and ideological conflicts. The study of wars, including their causes, conduct, and consequences, provides students with insights into significant historical events and their long-term impacts on nations and societies.</p>



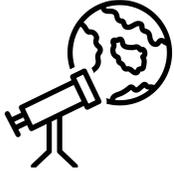
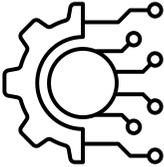
Substantive Concepts



Exploration and Invention

This concept refers to the human drive to discover, innovate, and expand knowledge and capabilities. Exploration refers to the act of searching or traveling for the purpose of discovery, often leading to the finding of new geographical areas, resources, or information. Invention, on the other hand, is the creation of new processes, tools, or devices, often driven by the desire to improve existing conditions, solve problems, or enhance understanding and capabilities.

We have broken it down into the following categories:

				
Discovery	Migration	Progress	Technology	Tools

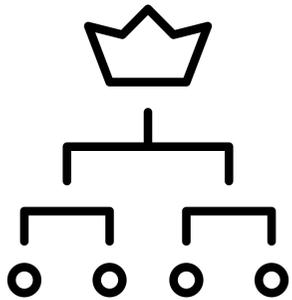


Substantive Concepts

 Discovery	<p>Discovery in a historical context involves uncovering or finding something previously unknown or unrecognized. This concept is crucial in teaching about the exploration of new lands, scientific breakthroughs, and archaeological findings. It encourages students to understand the impact of discoveries on expanding human knowledge and changing perceptions of the world, from ancient times to modern explorations.</p>
 Migration	<p>Migration refers to the movement of people from one area to another, often across significant distances. Historically, it includes voluntary movements for better opportunities, as well as forced movements like slavery or displacement due to conflict. Teaching about migration helps students to understand the reasons behind these movements, their impacts on societies, and how they have shaped cultural and demographic landscapes.</p>
 Progress	<p>In history, progress is the concept of advancement and improvement in various aspects of human societies, such as technology, social systems, and cultural practices. Teaching this concept involves exploring how societies evolve over time, examining the factors that drive progress, and discussing the implications of these changes, both positive and negative.</p>
 Technology	<p>Technology in a historical context refers to the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry. It involves studying the development and impact of technological innovations from ancient tools and machinery to modern digital technology. Teaching about technology allows students to understand how technological advancements have driven societal changes and shaped human history.</p>
 Tools	<p>Tools are physical items used to perform tasks or create products, ranging from simple hand tools used by early humans to complex machines in modern industries. In teaching history, the concept of tools can be used to illustrate human ingenuity, the development of skills and crafts, and the impact of technological advancements on everyday life and economic activities.</p>



Substantive Concepts



Hierarchy and Power

Hierarchy and Power detail the organisation and distribution of authority and control within societies, as well as the dynamics of social stratification and influence. Hierarchy refers to the structured levels of power and authority in a society, often determining individuals' or groups' status and roles. Power is the ability to influence or control the behaviour of people and the course of events. Together, these concepts explore how societies are organised and governed, and how power and resources are allocated and contested.

We have broken it down into the following categories:

Democracy	Empire	Equality	Government	Monarchy	Prejudice



Substantive Concepts

 Democracy	<p>Democracy is a system of government in which power is vested in the people, who exercise it directly or through elected representatives. In a historical context, teaching about democracy involves exploring its origins in ancient civilisations, its evolution over time, and its various forms, including direct and representative democracy.</p>
 Empire	<p>An empire is a large political unit, often an aggregation of territories and peoples, ruled by a single supreme authority, historically an emperor or a centralised state. Teaching about empires involves studying their formation, expansion, administration, and eventual decline. This concept provides insights into how power is exercised over diverse cultures and geographies, the impact of imperial rule on subject peoples, and the legacies of empires in today's world.</p>
 Equality	<p>Equality in a historical context refers to the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities. It is a concept that encompasses struggles and movements aimed at achieving equal rights for all individuals, regardless of race, gender, or social class. Teaching about equality involves discussing historical inequalities, the efforts made to address them, and the ongoing challenges in achieving true equality.</p>
 Government	<p>Government is the system or group of people governing an organized community, typically a state. In historical teaching, this concept covers the different forms of government that have existed, from ancient monarchies and empires to modern democracies and dictatorships. Understanding government includes studying its functions, the role of law and order, and how governments have shaped and been shaped by societal values and conflicts.</p>
 Monarchy	<p>Monarchy is a form of government with a monarch at its head. In a historical context, monarchies have ranged from absolute, where the monarch wields extensive power, to constitutional, where their powers are limited by law or political customs. Teaching about monarchy involves exploring its origins, development, and decline in various regions, and the influence of monarchies on culture, society, and international relations.</p>
 Prejudice	<p>Prejudice refers to preconceived opinions or attitudes towards people based on characteristics such as race, gender, or social class, often without factual basis. In history teaching, prejudice can be explored through the study of discrimination, stereotypes, and biases that have influenced societies and historical events. This concept helps students understand the impact of prejudice on individuals and groups, and the importance of promoting a more inclusive and equitable society.</p>



Disciplinary Concepts

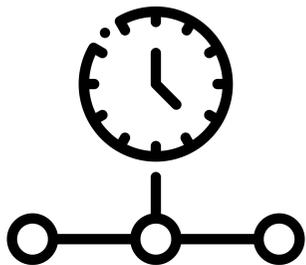


Cause and Consequence

This concept entails analysing the reasons behind historical events (causes) and the outcomes that result (consequences). It helps in understanding the complexity of historical events, the factors influencing them, and their far-reaching effects.

Continuity and Change

This concept examines what has remained constant and what has evolved in history. It's essential for identifying patterns and understanding how and why societies develop over time. This analysis helps in recognising how traditions persist or change, offering insights into the dynamics of historical progression.



Chronology

Chronology is about arranging events in their order of occurrence to construct a coherent historical narrative. It helps in understanding the sequence of events, their interrelationships, and the progression of historical developments, providing a structured framework to comprehend history.



Disciplinary Concepts

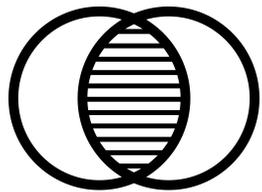


Evidence and Interpretation

This concept focuses on critically analysing historical sources to gather information and recognising that interpretations of these sources can vary. It encourages a questioning approach to historical narratives and the development of reasoned personal interpretations.

Significance

Significance involves assessing the importance or impact of historical events, figures, or developments and their relevance to the present. It considers the effects of events, their impact on societies, and their legacy, helping to understand why certain historical developments are notable.



Similarity and Difference

This entails comparing and contrasting various historical events, periods, or societies to comprehend the diversity and commonality in human experiences. It assists in identifying recurring themes across different cultures and eras, while also recognising the distinctive characteristics of specific historical settings.