



**Introductory Reading Lists for the History Preliminary Examination**

**A. History of the British Isles**

**1. 300-1100**

- J. Campbell, ed. *The Anglo-Saxons* (good and well-illustrated)  
M. Alexander (trans.), *Beowulf* (Penguin ed., for the flavour of the period)  
P. Strafford, *Unification and Conquest*  
H. R. Loyn, *Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest*  
C. Brooks, *The Saxon and Norman Kings*

**2. 1000-1330**

- N. Saul (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Medieval England* (1997)  
D. Carpenter, *The Struggle for Mastery: Britain, 1066-1284* (2004)  
R. Bartlett, *England under the Norman and Angevin Kings, 1075-1225* (2000)  
M. T. Clanchy, *England and its Rulers, 1066-1272* (2nd edn, 1998)  
R. R. Davies, *The First English Empire: Power and Identities in the British Isles, 1093-1343* (2000)

**3. 1330-1550**

- M. H. Keen, *England in the Later Middle Ages* 2nd edn. (2003)  
W. M. Ormrod, *Political Life in Late Medieval England, 1300-1450* (1995)  
G. L. Harriss, *Shaping the Nation. England, 1360-1461* (2005)  
R. H. Britnell, *Britain and Ireland, 1050-1530: Economy and Society* (2004)  
C. Dyer, *Making a Living in the Middle Ages. The People of Britain 850-1520* (2002)

**4. 1500-1700**

- J. Guy, *Tudor England* (1994)  
D. L. Smith, *A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603-1707* (1998)  
B. Coward, *The Stuart Age* (1994)  
T. Harris, *Restoration. Charles II and his Kingdoms, 1660-1685* (2005)  
T. Harris, *Revolution: The Great Crisis of the British Monarchy, 1685-1720* (2006)  
M. Kaufmann, *Black Tudors: the Untold Story* (2017)  
K. Wrightson, *English Society, 1580-1680* (various editions)

**5. 1688-1848**

- P. Langford, *The Eighteenth Century: A Very Short Introduction* (2000)  
J. Hoppit, *A Land of Liberty? England 1688-1727* (2000)  
P. Langford, *A Polite and Commercial People. England 1727-1783* (1989)  
B. Hilton, *A Mad, Bad and Dangerous People? 1784-1846* (2006)  
P. Fryer, *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain* (new ed 2010)  
D. Olusoga, *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (2016)  
J. Uglow, *In These Times: Living in Britain through Napoleon's Wars 1793-1815* (2014)  
A. Vickery, *The Gentleman's Daughter: Women's Lives in Georgian England* (1998)

**6. 1830-1951**

- P. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, *British Imperialism* (Vol. 1) (1992)

A. Calder, *The People's War* (1968 or any other edn)  
 P. Fryer, *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain* (new ed 2010)  
 V. Gatrell, *The Hanging Tree* (1994).  
 K. Gleadle, *British Women in the Nineteenth Century* (2001)  
 P. Johnson (ed.), *Twentieth Century Britain* (1992)  
 D. Kynaston, *Austerity Britain* (2007).  
 D. Olusoga, *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (2016)  
 L. Raw, *Striking a Light* (2009).  
 P. Thane, *Divided Kingdom* (2018)  
 E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (1963 or any other edn)  
 S. Todd, *The People: the rise and fall of the Working Class* (2014)

## **B. Approaches to History, Historiography**

These papers will be taught in lectures and fortnightly tutorials during the first two terms of the first year.

### **1. Approaches to History**

In this paper undergraduates study ways in which the writing of history has been influenced by other disciplines. There will be a choice of themes: anthropology, archaeology, art, economics, gender and sexuality, race, sociology. The following books are useful by way of introduction:

M. Bloch, *The Historian's Craft* (1994, or any other edition)  
 S. Berger, H. Feldner, and K. Passmore, *Writing History: Theory and Practice* (2010 edn)  
 O. Hufton, *The Prospect Before Her* (1997)  
 S. Rowbotham, *Promise of a Dream* (2000)  
 R. Shoemaker and M. Vincent (eds.) *Gender and History in Western Europe* (1997)  
 A. Sullivan and S. Todd, *Sex and Gender: A Contemporary Reader* (2023)  
 J. Tosh, *The Pursuit of History* (fifth edition, 2010)

### **2. Historiography: Tacitus to Weber**

John Burrow, *A History of Histories* (2007)

**You might also be interested in these as fun history reading:**

T. C. W. Blanning, *The Triumph of Music: Composers, Musicians, and their Audiences, 1700 to the Present* (2008).  
 Inga Clendinnen, *Dancing with Strangers* (2007)  
 Angela Davis, *An Autobiography* (1988)  
 Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1985)  
 John Reed, *Ten Days that Shook the World* (1928)  
 Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany* (2004)  
 Selina Todd, *Tastes of Honey: The Making of Shelagh Delaney and a Cultural Revolution* (2019)