

1

Open-ended questions. Develop a selection of open-ended History questions to help with students' thinking skills e.g. 'Do inevitable events exist in History?' or 'Is History all about progress?'. You could have these displayed in your room, or on cards in an envelope to give to students who finish work early or need an additional challenge.

2

Competitions. The HA and BBC History run various competitions for young people every year. They range from writing historical fiction to debate and essay tasks. Look on their website for details of this year's competitions.

3

Laminated lovelies. Have a series of interesting articles laminated for students to read when they've finished their work. If you think they need a more structured activity you could either give them a standard structure for analysing the piece, or ask them to develop their own.

4

Reading list. Provide reading lists around your department's topics for any of the more able/interested students.

5

Who's coming to dinner? With a list of individuals from a period, students organise the seating for a dinner party. They need to decide who can sit next to whom and why. Get some paper plates for them to write names on.

6

Retail therapy. Save, find or make up some shopping receipts. In pairs, students infer what kind of person is represented and why. Alternatively, they could make up a receipt for an individual from History and get other students to guess who it is.

7

Text U L&R. Choose two historic figures and ask students to imagine a text conversation between them. They write out the text talk – perhaps omitting the names so others can guess who is interacting.

8

Handouts. More able students can be given the extension task of devising revision handouts for the rest of the class on whichever topic you are addressing. This works well as on-going extension work throughout a course.

9

Music. Ask students to summarise their learning into a memorable revision song. Alternatively, researching and listening to the music of the era you're studying can give them a stronger sense of period. Music written subsequently can generate really interesting interpretations questions.

10

Devil's advocate debate. Set students a debate task in which they have to take a side with which they definitely disagree e.g. 'Appeasing Hitler was the right course of action in the 1930s'. This also works well in mixed ability classes as weaker students can argue the other side.