**Year 9 Research Project**

**What is the Year 9 Research Project**

• The RP is a 750 -15000 word investigation.

**Why?**

• It gives you a chance to study in real depth a topic that you have an interest in.

• It can relate to any period and any topic.

• It gives you the chance to development of your historical skills.

• As such it is a great opportunity to produce a mature academic study on something that you might never again have the chance to research.

**What are the titles RP in History?**

1. The Springfield Race Riot of 1908: What were the causes and/or effects?
2. Spanish-American War: What were the causes and/or effects?
3. The automobile: What was its impact on America’s economy and society?
4. Women’s suffrage movement: Who were the founders and what methods did they use? What were their successes and/or failures?
5. Red Scare of the 1920s: What were the causes? What was the impact on immigrants and/or radicals? What was the role of A. Mitchell Palmer and/or J. Edgar Hoover?
6. Sacco-Vanzetti case: What role did discrimination play in the trial and verdict?
7. Prohibition: What were the causes? What was its impact on the development of organized crime?
8. Harlem Renaissance: What were the causes? What were the effects?
9. Mississippi River Flood of 1927: How did it affect farmers? How did it impact racial issues in the South? What was the government response?

**History RP - Essential Guide**

**Miscellaneous Points**

• The limit of 1500 words DOES include the introduction, the investigation itself and the conclusion. It DOES NOT include the Contents Page, Bibliography

• Page Numbers are required on all pages.

• Tables and charts should appear in the body of the essay, as close as possible to their first reference.

• Remember that visual sources (photographs, paintings, cartoons) have the benefit of taking up none of your valuable word count, breaking up the study, making it look more professional and providing stimulating insights. However, under no circumstances throw in visual sources which you do not refer to within the study.

**•** Maintaining a bibliography and producing accurate footnotes is a skill that students should be seeking to refine as part of the historical essay writing process. Documenting the research in this way is vital: it allows readers to evaluate the evidence for themselves, and it shows the student’s understanding of the importance of the sources used.

▪ You should maintain a bibliography as soon as you start the process.

**Title page**

The title page should include **only** the following information:

• the research question (a meaningful, focused, manageable topic based on something that took place more than 10 years ago)

• word count (once this has been finalised).

Example

*Research question:*

**"To what extent was the overthrow of Allende in 1973 the results of external factors?"**

*Name:*

*Word Count*

**Introduction**

**SHOULD INCLUDE…….**

**Research Question**

• “This essay investigates the question [your research question goes here].”

**Historical Relevance**

• Outline why the topic / period you have chosen for study is so important to know about, and why your question within that topic is such an important one to answer.

**Contemporary Relevance**

Why the issues raised by your question still have contemporary relevance.

**Structure of the Investigation**

Outline how the investigation is structured (“The investigation will firstly consider…it will then move on to…Following this, consideration will be given to…[etc.]”)

**Conclusions Reached**

• “The main conclusions reached in the investigation are that…”

**Investigation**

**Source Material**

Outline the (a) Primary sources and (b) Secondary sources you will use. For each source referred to, explain its values (origin, purpose) and its limitations (origin, purpose). Add a footnote next to each source mentioned giving a full Harvard Author-Date reference.

**The Main Debates/Factors**

• What are the main disagreements between historians with regard to your question?

• Why do these sources disagree so strongly?

**Analysis of the Debate/Factors**

• This is the main body of course essay.

• Proceed to examine each key argument / factor in turn.

• Have a subheading over each of these (matching the structure outlined in the introduction).

• Within each paragraph, take every opportunity to consider the value and limitations of each source that you use (Origin? Purpose? Friendly or hostile witness? Untrue, or merely incomplete? Written to inform, or to persuade?)

▪ Any information that is important to the argument must not be included in appendices or footnotes/endnotes. The examiner will not read notes or appendices, so an essay that is not complete in itself will be compromised across the assessment criteria.

• Use subject-specific terminology and concepts accurately and consistently.

• End each paragraph with a clear, focused conclusion.

**Conclusion**

**• “This investigation has sought to answer the question ‘[your question here’].”**

(Restate the research question)

**• “The evidence and arguments considered has led me to the conclusion that the answer to this question is that…”**

(Answer the research question as far as you are able).

**• “Nevertheless, my studies demonstrate that there are clearly problems with reaching a final answer to the question because…”**

**F. Bibliography**

**1. Primary Sources**

**2. Secondary Sources**

**3. Other sources (including websites)**

• All sources should be listed alphabetically (by author surname), using the Chicago format.

• The bibliography must list **only** those sources cited.