

# The Historian

## Chapter 1

Term	Definition
Archaeologist	Someone who investigates places and objects left by people in the past, including the time before written records were kept.
Archaeology	The study of the past, based on material remains.
Archive	A place where historical documents are stored and studied.
Artefact	An object of historical interest made by a human being.
Autobiography	An account of a person's life written by the person themselves.
Bias	A viewpoint that favours one side over another.
Biography	An account of a person's life written by someone else.
Census	An official count of the population.
Century	A time span of one hundred years.
Chronology	Series of dates and events in the order they occurred.
Cross-Checking	When more than one source is used to make sure the information is correct.
Decade	A time span of ten years.
Empathy	The ability to understand and share the feelings of another person; for example, looking at history from the perspective of the people who lived at the time.
Exaggeration	When something is represented as better or worse than it actually was.
Fact	Something known to have happened; something that is known to be true
Handling Box	Contains replicas (copies) of artefacts so that anyone can examine them without damaging an original.
Heritage Centre	A type of museum that stores, preserves and displays important objects relating to the history and culture of its local area
Historian	Someone who is an expert, or a student of, history.
Historical Consciousness	Being able to place ourselves in past human experience, linking the past, the present and the future.
Historical Era	A period of history with common features
Historical Repository	A place where evidence of the past can be stored and maintained.
History	The study of the past, based on evidence.
Library	A building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution
Museum	A building in which artefacts are stored and put on display.
Objective	Historical judgment or view not influenced by a person's feelings or opinions in considering what happened
Opinion	A view or judgement formed about what happened; can be objective or subjective
Plagiarism	Passing off someone's work or ideas as your own, without citing their real source

**1.5 INVESTIGATE** the job of the historian, including how s/he finds and uses evidence to form historical judgements which may be revised and reinterpreted in the light of new evidence.

The Role of the Historian		
Historians are experts or students of history. Their main task is to study the past to gain insight into human experiences that have shaped our society and world. They gather evidence from various sources and cross-check them to ensure accuracy. Historians make judgements based on this evidence, and their conclusions may evolve as new evidence emerges, requiring them to revisit and reinterpret their findings.		
Why do we study History?	Reinterpreting History	Historical Repositories
We study history to help us understand human experiences and to learn from past mistakes. We also learn historical consciousness: the ability to link the past, present, and future, placing ourselves in past human experiences.	As new evidence emerges, historians may need to revise their historical judgements. This process of reinterpretation can offer fresh perspectives or correct previous inaccuracies.	Places like museums, archives, and libraries store evidence of the past. Examples include The National Museum of Ireland and The National Archives of Ireland. These are crucial for historians as they offer access to primary and secondary sources.
Written (written document from the time)	Visual (what we can see)	Oral (what we can discuss)
Written sources include diaries, letters, emails, autobiographies, biographies and government records. <b>Pros:</b> We can see the language used and how, can tell us the beliefs of people and society, tell us the story of a life, information about events (local, national or global), information gathered about a period of time. <b>Cons:</b> Can contain bias, be exaggerated, provide only some of the information, or is written in another language.	Visual sources include photographs, posters, art, cartoon drawings, maps and documentary films. <b>Pro:</b> Photographs can capture a moment in time, give us faces for the names we learn about, an idea of what life looked like during a certain period of time. <b>Cons:</b> Could have been edited or changed for reasons of propaganda, may have been created for the sole reason of propaganda, director/artist may be biased.	Oral sources include interviews carried out by the researcher. <b>Pros:</b> interviews tell us how someone feels or thinks about an event, tells us their experience, provides us with stories of the past, a person's tone/body language can tell us how someone truly feels when speaking. <b>Cons:</b> Can contain bias, be exaggerated, some details may have been forgotten if interviewed a long time after the event.
Aural (what we can hear)	Tactile (a source that can be touched)	
Aural sources include recorded interviews, podcasts and speeches. <b>Pros:</b> Recordings can tell us about what someone was thinking, Speeches and interviews can tell us about the issues of a time period, a person's tone can tell us how someone truly feels when speaking. <b>Cons:</b> Can contain bias, be exaggerated, some details may have been forgotten if interviewed a long time after the event.	Tactile sources include artefacts, excavation sites and handling boxes. <b>Pros:</b> objects give us information about how life was lived during a time period, can show us how objects have changed or have been replaced, can show us what materials were used, provide us with examples from the past. <b>Cons:</b> They may have been damaged when found - or missing pieces - so they may not give a complete picture, while recreated pieces may not be made with the same material as the original piece.	

