

Assigning significance

- The following questions can be used or adapted to help students decide on the significance of aspects of the past, for example people, events, developments or sites.
- These questions refer to people and events. However ideas, discoveries, developments, sites or other aspects of the past could be substituted.

| Questions to determine significance | Yes or No To what extent? | Notes |
|---|------------------------------|-------|
| Did the person or event bring about an important change? | | |
| Did the person or event affect a large number of people? | | |
| Were some people affected more than others? | | |
| Were the effects positive or negative? | | |
| How deeply did the person or event affect peoples' lives? | | |
| Were effects widespread? | | |
| Were effects long-lasting? | | |
| Was the person or event commemorated in the past? What form of commemoration? | | |
| Is the person or event commemorated today? What form of commemoration? | | |
| Was the person or event important for our understanding of the past? | | |
| Was the person or event important for our understanding of the present? | | |
| Has the importance of the person or event changed over time? | | |