

Versus History Essay Prize 2023
(#VHEssayPrize)



Question Number	Title
1	"Popular Historians like Dan Snow are all style and no substance." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
2	"Statues are not a good record of history but of historical memory." How far do you agree with this quote from Historian Alex von Tunzelmann?
3	"Chat GPT is the death knell for history and historians." Is this true?
4	"The problem with history is that its purpose has never been convincingly articulated." To what degree do you consider this to be a valid statement?
5	"Communism is, without historical exception, a failed political experiment." Is this a fair assessment? At least two separate examples must be used.
6	"History is just one damned thing after another." To what extent is this a valid claim?
7	"Historians have more to learn from Geographers than vice versa." How far do you agree with this statement?
8	"There is no historical evidence for global warming." Is this true?
9	"One thing that unites the dictators of the twentieth century is that they were all principled pragmatists." To what degree is this statement valid?
10	"The only political experiment that has proved itself to be successful through history is constitutional monarchy." To what extent do you agree?
11	"Decolonised history has cut Europe down to size." How far do you agree with this quote from Historian John Darwin?
12	"The most significant problem that historians face is that they are burdened with the blight of hindsight." Is there any validity in this statement?

13	“History ... plays havoc with our generalizations, breaks our rules.” As tempting as this statement may be, is there any credence to it?
14	“Ultimately, history has shown that the UN has been as unsuccessful as the League of Nations.” How far do you agree with this statement?
15	“Revolutions fail to live up to the ideals and intentions of their founders.” Does the historical record validate this perspective?
16	Should history education be repurposed towards forecasting the future?
17	Is anything inevitable in history? Discuss.
18	How can we empower the narratives of those traditionally written out of history? Discuss
19	If you were made Education Minister of your chosen nation, how would you approach the history curriculum and the teaching of history? Discuss.
20	Compared to the present, were the so-called dark ages really all that ‘dark’?
21	“A History degree isn’t worth the paper it is printed on.” To what extent is this statement valid?
22	“Empathy in history is a noble but ultimately unobtainable endeavour.” How far do you agree with this statement?
23	“Historical significance - like offense and beauty - is in the eye of the beholder and therefore significantly overrated.” Discuss.
24	“If historians better understood the role of gender through history, we would better understand its role in the present.” Is there any truth to this?
25	“Social history has suffered in silence while students of history have been fed a gruel of kings, queens, wars and dictators for far too long.” Is this a fair assessment of history education?
26	“Totalitarianism is a necessary evil in the formation of democracy”. How true is this statement?
27	The Cold War was lost by the communists rather than won by the capitalists. Discuss this statement.
28	There is no such thing as minority history. Discuss this assertion.
29	“The history of the world is merely the history of war”. Is this an accurate description of human history?

30	Cardinal Wolsey achieved very little of substance in terms of his domestic policies. Discuss.
31	“President John F. Kennedy achieved more in death than he ever did in life”. How far would you agree with this statement?
32	“Chairman Mao’s rule in China was nothing more than a sequence of events determined by the random whims of a madman”. Discuss.
33	The history of British imperialism is the history of exploitation. How true is this assertion?
34	There is no history without bloodshed. Discuss.
35	“The significance of Magna Carta has been grossly overstated by historians”. How far do you agree with this statement?
36	Winston Churchill should be remembered as a tyrant rather than as a hero. Discuss.
37	“Dr Martin Luther King jr and Malcolm X were more alike than different in their views and actions during the postwar civil rights movement”. How accurate is this assertion?
38	“Donald J. Trump deserves to be remembered as a president who succeeded in reimagining the office of the presidency”. How far do you agree with this statement?
39	To what extent did the Indian ‘Mutiny’ of 1857 alter the way the British controlled India?
40	To what extent does the Second World War deserve to be seen as the panacea to the Great Depression?
41	Discuss the claim that the Vikings are rightly remembered for piracy, pillage and paganism.
42	Who achieved more, the Merovingians or the Carolingians?
43	The importance of religion for those living in the Crusader states is overstated. How far do you agree?
44	“The Norman invasion was the end of England”. Discuss.
45	Rome is best considered as a maritime power in the years 220-30BC.