

**Versus History Essay Prize 2024**  
**(#VHEssayPrize)**



Question Number	Title
1	‘Rishi Sunak will ultimately be remembered as the best of the five Conservative Prime Ministers since 2010.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?
2	‘When social historians look back in one hundred years’ time, they are likely to point to gentrification as the most significant threat to the cohesiveness of our urban societies.’ How far do you agree?
3	‘Even if history were judged incapable of other uses, its entertainment value would remain in its favour.’ How far do you agree with this comment?
4	‘The US electoral system is no longer fit for purpose.’ How far do you agree with this statement?
5	Why did communism fail to deliver on its promises?
6	‘Artificial Intelligence will kill history.’ What do you think this statement means and do you agree?
7	‘Of all the leaders of the Soviet Union before Gorbachev, Khrushchev left the biggest legacy.’ Discuss
8	The Cold War was fundamentally similar in Europe and South East Asia. How far do you agree?
9	Henry V’s campaign of 1415, culminating in Agincourt, was a pointless waste of resources. How accurate is this description?
10	How far was Lenin correct when he claimed ‘There are decades when nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen’?
11	It is misleading to talk of ‘knowledge’ in History. Do you agree?

12	<b>'Two diametrically opposing things can be true at the same time.'</b> In regards to history, to what degree is this claim valid?
13	<b>'The history of empire is the history of human misery.'</b> Is this a fair description?
14	<b>'Geography is the matrix of history.'</b> To what degree is this true?
15	<b>'1066 is the most overrated year in human history.'</b> Discuss.
16	<b>'There is no new history, just new historians.'</b> To what extent do you agree with this statement?
17	<b>'History should be a compulsory subject for all students until the age of 18.'</b> How far do you agree with this statement?
18	<b>'Without the Great Depression, Nazism would have been little more than a vulgar but brief phase of European history.'</b> To extent do you agree with this statement?
19	<b>'Margaret Thatcher achieved little of lasting consequence.'</b> To what degree is this statement true?
20	<b>'The history of the twentieth century is more representative of regress than progress.'</b> How far is this statement valid?
21	<b>'Women have been excluded from the narratives of history largely because the telling of history is dominated by men.'</b> Discuss.
22	<b>'Henry VIII's kingship laid the platform for modern government.'</b> To what extent do you agree?
23	<b>'The history of medicine has been a tale of unrelenting development.'</b> To what extent is this true?
24	<b>'The nature of crime and punishment in the UK has changed beyond all recognition since the 1700s.'</b> Discuss.
25	<b>'The Tsarist dynasty fell mainly because of WW1.'</b> To what extent is this statement valid?
26	<b>'Artificial Intelligence will ultimately lead to history becoming more inclusive.'</b> How far do you agree?
27	<b>'Historians always oversimplify. However, history itself refuses to bend to their will.'</b> Discuss.
28	<b>How true is it to say that the history of a particular sport can reflect the history of a particular country?</b>

29	'History is not discovered, it is manufactured.' How accurate is this statement?
30	The 'what ifs' in history should be considered just as important as what actually happened. Discuss
31	'The history of the human species is merely the history of technology.' How far do you agree with this statement?
32	History is made at the confluence of structuralism and intentionalism. Discuss.
33	'The United Nations has been no more successful than the League of Nations.' How accurate is this statement?
34	All history is merely exaggeration. Discuss.
35	'JFK's presidency was all style and no substance.' How far do you agree with this statement?
36	'Conflict is the central driving force in the history of the United States.' Discuss.
37	Cinema can never truly reflect history. Discuss.
38	'Entertainment has no obligation to the truth of history.' How far do you agree with this statement?
39	'There does not need to be a Black History Month' - Morgan Freeman. How far do you agree with this statement?
40	'The most influential person in the history of skateboarding is Mark Gonzales.' Discuss.
41	'There should be no term limits on the Executive Office of the President of the United States'. How far do you agree with this statement?
42	Leni Reifenstahl's 'Triumph of the Will' should not be considered art. Discuss.
43	How true is it to claim that History is merely the documenting of the lives of men, by men?
44	'History is a science rather than an art.' Discuss.
45	Can we ever actually <i>know</i> the past?
46	'Hitler was a weak dictator'. To what degree is this true?

47	<b>'No authoritarian regime has ever achieved full control over the people.' Is this statement valid?</b>
48	<b>'No revolution has actually been that revolutionary.' Is this true? You must make reference to at least two separate revolutions through time.</b>
49	<b>'Empathy is a fool's errand in the world of history.' Is there any credibility to this statement?</b>
50	<b>'Climate change is not a historical fact.' Discuss.</b>