

USES OF HISTORY

(PG SEM-1, CC:1, HISTORIOGRAPHY)

DR.MD. NEYAZ HUSSAIN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & HOD
PG DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAHARAJA COLLEGE,
VKSU,ARA(BIHAR)

INTRODUCTION

History is the *study of life in society in the past*, in all its aspect, in relation to present developments and future hopes. It is the story of man in time, an inquiry into the past based on evidence. History aims at helping students to understand the present existing social, political, religious and economic conditions of the people. Now the question arises what is the use of history?

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History helps us understand change:

- a. How recent, current and prospective change that reflects the lives of citizens are emerging or may emerge.
- b. How events in the past made things the way they are today
- c. Helps us to understand the different societies, ideologies, systems, cultures and governments
- d. Helps us to understand the different ways that people live and that the challenges they face which can further helps us in life

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❑ History builds better citizenship

- a. Because we have an understanding of a shared past and a communal identity

❑ History can be intensely personal

- a. Helps us understand how events in the past made things the way they are today
- b. With lesson from the past, we not only learn about ourselves and how we come to be, but also develop the ability to avoid mistakes and create better paths for our societies

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History contributes to moral understanding

- a. Studying the stories of individual and situations in the past allows a student of history to test his or her own moral sense

History provides identity

- a. Studying the history of one's own family is the most obvious use of history. Family identity is established.

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□ Critical thinking

- a. Analyzing historical sources and narratives hones critical thinking. Students learn to evaluate evidence, identify biases, and draw well-informed conclusions- a valuable skill set applicable in various aspects of life, from problem solving to assessing information in the digital age.

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❑ **Gaining a career through history**

❑ **History is the greatest of stories**

a. History is a tale that spans the entire human experience, and it is a tale in which we all have a part to play.

Thus the study of history is very helpful in understanding changes, building a better citizen, testing own moral sense, developing critical thinking and also in building career.