Structures to Support Good Historical Investigation Question

I.B. History

**Instructions:**

Here are some ideas from Russell Tarr at Active History. Use this to see if you can turn your topic into a working research question.

The three main focuses of study tend to be focused on

* EITHER **Causes** of an event / situation;
* OR **Consequences** of an event / situation
* OR **Relevance** **of particular evidence** about an event / situation (e.g. a painting, novel, film, biography).

The following table could help you get started:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **To what extent was...** | [Event]  [Situation]  [Development]  [Individual]  [Policy] | **responsible for...** | [Event]  [Situation]  [Development]  [Policy] |
| **the most important result of...** |
| **How useful is...** | the Novel...  the Album...  oral testimony...  photography...  the painting...  the film... | **for a historical investigation of...** |
| **How successful / significant was...** | [Individual] (e.g. politician / sportsperson / entertainer / film director / etc) | **in the context of...** |

The following list of past Internal Assessment questions from IST will also be helpful:

* **"Evidence based"**
  + What are the values and limitations of the PC game 'Company of Heroes' to the Historian studying D-Day?
  + What are the values and limitations of the film "Amistad" to the historian studying the transatlantic slave trade?
  + How accurate is the depiction of the 'White Rose' in the film 'Sophie Scholl - The Final Days'?
  + How useful is "The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole" for an investigation of Thatcher's first administration?
  + How useful are declassified documents t for an investigation of the treatment of the Jewish Population of Vichy France?
  + To what extent are photographic sources of the Vietnam War more useful to the historian than written accounts?
  + How useful are visual sources in knowing what really happened during the 1984-5 miners' strike?
* **"Event based"**
  + How representative is the My Lai massacre as evidence of American Experience in Vietnam?
  + To what extent was the Jewish State of Israel established through means of terrorism?
  + To what extent was the bombing of Dresden a necessary act of war?
  + How was the visual image manipulated in Stalin's USSR?
  + What was the Significance of the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in terms of American Involvement in the Vietnam War?
  + Why was the transatlantic slave trade abolished?
  + Did Hitler really snub Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics?
  + To what extent were the student riots of the 1980s in Korea the result of the policies of President Park?
  + Is the Italian liberation still celebrated today as it was in 1945?
* **"People based"**
  + What is the Historical Significance of the Roman Emperor Nero?
  + Why was Fidel Castro able to take power in Cuba?
  + Assess the accuracy with which the life and career of Rosa Parks has been depicted by commentators and historians.
  + How typical were the motives of Count Raymond IV of Toulouse for going on The Crusade?
  + What was the historical significance of the sporting career of Muhammad Ali?