WHAT QUESTIONS DO WE ASK OF THE PAST?
THINKING LIKE A HISTORIAN

CAUSE AND EFFECT
What were the causes of past events?
What were the effects?
• Who or what made change happen?
• Who supported change?
• Who did not support change?
• Which effects were intended?
• Which effects were accidental?
• How did events affect people’s lives, community, and the world?

CHANGE AND CONTINUITY
What has changed?
What has remained the same?
• Who has benefited from this change?
• Who has not benefited? And why?

TURNING POINTS
How did past decisions or actions affect future choices?
• How did decisions or actions narrow or eliminate choices for people?
• How did decisions or actions significantly transform people’s lives?

USING THE PAST
How does the past help us make sense of the present?
• How is the past similar to the present?
• How is the past different from the present?
• What can we learn from the past?

THROUGH THEIR EYES
How did people in the past view their world?
• How did their worldview affect their choices and actions?
• What values, skills and forms of knowledge did people need to succeed?