

Rupert Tobin from England

In England there is a national curriculum, but what do they teach exactly? Rupert Tobin gives us more information about teaching in England.



How do they teach History in other countries? Editor of *Kleio* **Lisa Oskamp** tries to figure that out and interviews colleagues from all over the world.

Name, age, teaching experience?

My name is Rupert Tobin. I am 53 years old. I'm qualified since 1993. I did a variety of teaching, management and pastoral posts in six different secondary schools in London, Bristol and Bath.

Could you describe an average history lesson?

That is impossible! The most include provocative stimulus material (usually pictorial/cinematic), narrative/story, exposition and analysis, discussion and note-taking.

Which subject is your favourite subject to explain in a lesson? Why?

The list is too long! The important ethical stuff, of course: tolerance, racism and war. And the great stories, like 1066 Norman Conquest, 1605 Gunpowder Plot and the discovery of penicillin.

Which subject is the favourite subject to a lot of students?

For most boys it is wars and technology! And most girls like progress and development.

Do you use ICT-applications? In what way?

Yes, usually for display (powerpoint/prezi) and presentation (cinematic etc.).

What is your own opinion on the importance of the course history?

It is fundamental to principles of civilization.

If we want to learn something about the history of your country, which book would you recommend?

Simon Schama's A history of Britain.

What is the content of the history curriculum in your country?

There is a national curriculum. It is about the history of the islands from the earliest times to the present day and significant aspects of the history of the wider world. See this website for the complete national history curriculum: tiny.cc/K5BC.

Which training is required to become a history teacher?

A relevant university degree plus one year post graduate study and teaching experience.

What is the average salary of a forty-year-old teacher who works full-time?

Somewhere between £33,160 (37.490 euro) and £38,250 (43.245 euro) depending on qualifications and extra commitments.

How many students does an average class have?

Thirty for ages 11 to 16 and sixteen for ages 17 to 18.

How many hours do you teach when you work full-time?

Twenty-two lesson hours per week.

Are you free to choose the subjects that you want to teach or is there any involvement of the (national) government?

There is a national curriculum but it is not mandatory to follow it. We have adapted it to suit ourselves.

Is there a subject which is considered controversial to teach in your country?

Yes, the involvement of England in the slavery trade is rather difficult to discuss and it extends more widely to colonialism. ■

Below: The classroom.
Right: A student plays Lenin.
Right below: Page from the textbook.

