

Book Review sheet (allow about 30 minutes)

Title:

Author(s):

Full classmark:

Place, Publisher, Date of 1st edition:

Place, Publisher, Date of this edition:

(Always make a note of these essential details so you can cite the text correctly in essays and bibliographies)

First impressions?

eg. what kind of audience is intended? how is it written? how might you use this book?

What are the general scope and aims of the book?

(Cover notes, preface, introduction, chapter headings, illustrations, index etc may all offer clues)

Type of research /information sources on which the book is based?

Most academic texts will make some direct reference to this in the introduction, preface and/or acknowledgments. You can also tell a lot from the citations in footnotes and bibliography. Has the author drawn substantially on primary sources (eg archives, interviews or publications from the period under consideration) or have they relied mainly on secondary sources (other historians etc)? Or is there no way of telling where the information comes from and whether it's accurate?

Chapter Headings:

What do these tell you about the way the book is structured?

Additional comments:

eg particular strengths or weaknesses. Make a note of any particularly interesting ideas or aspects (with page references) that you may wish to come back to later, or continue on a separate page if you decide it is worth making more detailed notes at this stage.