Source Criticism Skills Reference Sheet

One of the most important aspects of studying history is the need to engage with historical sources. Reading and understanding sources requires a specific set of critical thinking skills that will allow you to analyse and evaluate them. Each skill is vitally important to doing well in the subject.

In order to help you understand how each of these skills relate to each other, they are organised in a table below. To learn more about each of the skills, click on the hyperlinks in the tables to see more detailed explanations and examples.

	Skill Name	Guiding Questions
Analysis Skills	Information	What is the <u>explicit meaning</u> of the source? What is the <u>implicit meaning</u> of the source? How does this source <u>corroborate</u> the information from another source? How does this source <u>contradict</u> the information from another source?
	Origin	Who created the source? What kind and type of source is it?
	Perspective	From what <u>point of view</u> is the source created?
	Context	When was the source <u>created</u> ? What <u>historical events happened at this time</u> that are important to the creation of this source?
	Audience	Who was the <u>intended audience</u> of the source?
	Motive	For what <u>purpose</u> was this source made?
Evaluation Skills	Reliability	How <u>trustworthy</u> is this source?
	Usefulness	How <u>useful</u> is this source to your topic of study?

For further information, visit: https://www.historyskills.com/source-criticism/

