History Extension **Writing a response in the ‘What is history?’ section**

Structure

* There are a number of possible structures. The two most commonly used are:
  + A source by source approach where each paragraph focuses on a particular source
    - Potential pitfall – it can become descriptive and it’s harder to make authentic connections to the main source and to other sources; it can also lead to pre-prepared or generic responses
    - Strength - it is clear, logical and easy for you to manage
  + An ideas based or thematic approach where you identify the key issues/arguments and use these to structure the response
    - Pitfall - It is harder to plan, organise and tends to make people anxious; you have to remember to cover the range of material in a balanced manner
    - Strength – it leads to a stronger, more conceptual response; forces you to really get your head around the key arguments or issues at stake; it is much easier to synthesise and make connections

Language

* Generally, formal, analytical language is appropriate
* Use the syllabus language and key concepts from the course/the sources
* Always give proper title (underlined) and date if you can the first time you mention a source
* Connectives are useful
* Persuasive language
* Don’t be afraid to use personal language when you are drawing your own conclusions – first person is ok in places

Sample question for us to work on pretending that Dr Ian Mortimer’s “Why historians should write fiction” is our main source:

To what extent is there debate over the relationship between history and fiction?

Support your argument with sustained integration of the Source and at least TWO other sources.

PLANNING TIME- use a good 5 minutes working out:

1. How this relates to syllabus dot points
2. How this relates to the main source
3. Points of connection to other sources

I suggest using a little mind map to do this

INTRODUCTION

* Introduce the key issues at stake
* Directly address how this links to the main source
* Reference other sources to be discussed
* Articulate your argument

PARA 1 (Number of paras is a guide only)

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

PARA 5

PARA 6

CONCLUSION

Restate your argument and make suggestions for future study – questions unanswered