**India**

**Task One**

Watch ‘The Story of India’ episodes 5 and 6 (2007) available on video.gdst.net (and, if you don’t yet have access to this, elsewhere online – but if you can’t find it, not to worry, you can watch it later in the year). It covers a long time span, this is deliberate as it sets up some vital context and key dynamics. After you watch, create an A4 brainstorm considering ‘What is the story of India?’.

**Task Two**

Choose one of the books below to read and write a c.500 word evaluation considering its utility to an historian studying the relative power of the Indians and British in India.

This is, of course, not an exhaustive list – and do read more if you’d like to. With these and anything else, be very aware that national and imperial histories are contested, controversial and shifting, and that long-held prejudices and attitudes that we would now reject can be evident. Always engage critically, bearing in mind that all representations of the past are interpretation and, for many of these, fictional ones at that. What they do achieve, however, is to give you a sense of period, and of views and attitudes.

**Fiction**

EM Forster - **A Passage to India** (1924) A classic novel set in India in the 1920s, examining racial tensions and prejudices through the lens of a court case,

Veera Hiranandani – **The Night Diary** (2018) A YA novel told through the letters of a 12 year old half-Muslim, half-Hindu girl to her mother, as she becomes a refugee during Partition.

Abir Mukherjee - **A Rising Man** (2016) and sequels Set in post-WW1 Calcutta, this is a murder mystery which engages with the tensions over Indian independence in the period.

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala – **Heat and Dust** (1975) A British woman travels to India to investigate her grandmother’s life there in the 1920s.

Salman Rushdie - **Midnight's Children** (1981) Follows the life of Saleem, born at midnight on the day of independence in 1947.

Abraham Verghese – **The Covenant of Water** (2023) Epic novel spanning from 1900 to 1977, following a single family afflicted by a terrible fate.

**Non-Fiction**

Mishal Husain – **Broken Threads: My Family From Empire to Independence** (2024) Husain, who you might be familiar with from her work as a journalist, uncovers the stories of her grandparents lives as they are changed forever by Partition.

Sunilk Khilnani – **Incarnations** (2016) A History of India in 50 lives, the figures from our period (you could just read these, not the whole book) span a range of themes and this would be a great introduction

Kavita Puri – **Partition Voices** (2022) An enormously moving book, collecting together the stories of those who experienced Partition and now live in the UK.

John Zubrzycki – **The Shortest History of India** (2023) This accessible survey would give you an overview of Indian history to contextualise the course.