



**The Historian**  
**History – Junior Cert**  
**Quick Notes**

# The Historian

A source is anything that provides us with evidence. Sources can be organised into four categories – written e.g. books, visual e.g. photographs, oral e.g. tapes, material e.g. ruins. Primary sources are any evidence surviving from the past which can be examined by historians e.g. letters, photographs. Secondary sources are information about events produced by people who did not witness the events in question e.g. books, films. There are some dangers to sources e.g. bias, subjectivity, exaggeration. The Christian calendar called the year of Jesus Christ's birth year one and started counting years from that date. AD describes the years after Christ's birth and BC describes the years before Christ's birth. Historians also count in centuries. The years from 1901 to 2000 are the twentieth century and so on. Historians also divide the past into ages and periods. These refer to times when people lived in a certain way and did certain things e.g. The Stone Age.