

July 2025

# Nick Baker – UK Trained English & History Teacher

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## PROFILE

Nick is a UK-Trained English and History Teacher with a wealth of experience teaching in a variety of school and college settings. Nick is particularly skilled at teaching English Language GCSE and A-Level syllabuses but is equally comfortable delivering National Curriculum in English or History from Key Stage 3 onwards. Nick is interested in the learning process regardless of the level at which he delivers teaching. "All key stages have their particular approaches and rewards...I'm equally thrilled by a Year Four's enthusiasm for a chapter of *The Iron Man* as an GCSE English student grasping the implications of a literary text..."

Nick is seeking both full and part-time roles in the Further Education sector. Nick has the maturity required to handle challenging students in a calm and relaxed manner while still ensuring the class stays focused on the work planned for that period. Nick is strongly committed to encouraging his student's confidence with variety of *Englishes* as a key to socialisation and social mobility. Nick works well with support staff and has the maturity to recognise that student and support staff know a great deal more about their schools and classes than a supply teacher ever can. Latterly, Nick has specialised at delivering the well-established AQA GCSE English Language and has become something of a subject specialist in this exam.

Nick is open minded about possible roles within London teaching English, History or Ancient History for schools offering these courses. Having studied to PHD level (with research specialisms in 19th and 20th Century cultural history) Nick is equally at home delivering English Literature or History syllabus to GCSE and A-Level standards. The breadth of his reading means he can often bring a richness and depth of historical background to the presentation of set texts both in terms of their "historical moment" as much as their place within literary tradition.

He is available immediately for interviews and trials and can start a role after the mid-Winter break.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### 2018 QTS Status

2001-2 PGCE (Secondary/English) Institute of Education, London

1996-2001 PhD (History) Queen Mary College, London

1995-96 MA (Modern History) Royal Holloway, London

1992-95 BA Class 1 (English/History) Queen Mary College, London

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### January 2024-present: Visiting Tutor of English at Stanmore College.

Hourly-paid, part-time, directly employed role within the English/Maths department delivering AQA GCSE English Language across a range of abilities. Nick has brought his subject-specialist knowledge to the role and contributes to the English departments syllabus knowledge base and well as contributing to departmental development of teaching techniques and pedagogical strategies.

### September-December, 2024: Teacher of English at West-Thames College, London.

Daily-paid, full-time, agency role within the busy English/Maths department delivering both AQA GCSE English Language and NCFE Functional Skills Level 1 to full-time vocational learners and part-time adult learners. Due to staff illnesses during the first half of the Autumn term, Nick was exposed to extensive cover demands in which he proved himself to be both a resilient and reliable teacher. During the Autumn term, West-Thames was inspected by OFSTED and Nick's Adult Functional Skills classes were subjected to a "deep dive." Partly on these findings, the Core Skills Department got an "Outstanding" and contributed to West-Thames being awarded "Outstanding" status:

<https://www.west-thames.ac.uk/news/1942-west-thames-college-celebrates-outstanding-ofsted-achievement>

**2022-2023 Teacher of English at The College of North West London (CWC), London.**

Hourly-paid agency role within the English/Maths department delivering AQA GCSE English Language and Functional Skills Level 1 to full-time vocational learners. Teaching at both the Paddington and Wembley Campuses, CWC draws on a highly diverse student body.

**2019-2020 Teacher of English at Southward College, London.**

Full-time agency role within the English/Maths department delivering AQA GCSE English Language to full-time vocational learners and part-time, evening adults. Southwark is an inner-city College with a highly diverse student body.

**2019-2019 Teacher of History at Leyton Sixth Form College, London.**

From January to May of 2019. Responded to an emergency call for a replacement A-Level history teacher at Leyton Sixth Form College following the sudden departure of a staff member due to ill health. Leyton is a busy North London Sixth Form with a large roll of Upper and Lower Sixth history students within the Humanities Department. There were over 40 Upper Sixth students, without a teacher, with barely four months before sitting their finals. Under the circumstances, the job description was simple and vital: "hit the ground running," complete syllabus delivery and exam technique, within the remaining time available. Nick interviewed on a Friday and began teaching the following Monday morning. An added pressure was that the upper sixth were studying Edexcel's Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors (1485-1603): a period about which he knew very little. The lower Sixth were on Edexcel's *Democracies in Change: Britain and the USA in the Twentieth Century*, which made things easier. The first task was to win the trust of a very abandoned looking Upper Sixth and assure them everything would be fine. The next task was to assimilate as much Tudor history and course materials as quickly as he could. This meant "teaching from the book" for the first few weeks while catching up with Tudor reading.

Meanwhile, core examination skills (such as source-analysis and question-and-answer techniques) were immediately introduced after discovering they had largely been ignored by the previous tutor. With just under four months until Finals, this needed urgent attention. A-Level teaching is both similar but different to the requirements GCSE and National Curriculum delivery. Less emphasis on white board presentation and more on focused reading, time-pressure along with extensive written feedback. Students come away with a portfolio of closely annotated question-and-answer performances that they can reflect upon and revise. Insisting upon regular written performance meets with understandable resistance but that is how they are finally judged during exams.

**2018-2020 SUPPLY EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

February, 2020 Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys. Cover across school years and subjects.

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January, 2020 Torridon Primary School, Year 5 Cover

January, 2020 Woolwich Polytechnic School, Year 8/9 and SEN Cover English

January, 2020 Woolwich Polytechnic Sixth Form. Year 11/12/10 Supply cover English

January, 2020: Bessemer Grange, Year 4 Cover

December, 2018, Rosendale Primary School, Year 4 Cover

December, 2018, Rosendale, Year 3 Cover

December, 2018, Rosendale, Multiple Year Cover

November, 2018, Rosendale, Multiple Year Cover November, 2018, Rosendale, Year 4 Cover

November, 2018, Rosendale, Year 4 Cover

October, 2018, Horniman Primary School, Year 1 Cover

September, 2018, Charlole Sharman Primary School, Year 2 Cover

June, 2018, St Helen's RC Primary, Year 4 Cover

June, 2018 Harris Primary Academy, Year 3 Cover

June 2018 Rosendale, Multiple Year Cover

June, 2018 Ashmole Primary School, Year 4 Cover

June, 2018 Rosendale, Year 4 Cover

Often called at short notice due to unforeseen staff illnesses, Nick always arrives early and gathers as much detail as he can about the day ahead. When a TA is on hand, Nick is quick to “touch base” and cheerfully lets them guide him through the school day. Nick is quick to pick up on the School’s ethos and is always available for playground or lunch-time. Nick makes a point of always leaving the classroom in a clean and tidy condition before leaving. Nick is aware of the different teaching skills required at both Primary and College Levels. He adapts his core skills appropriately and is always aware of the differing emotional and educational needs of the sectors he teaches. Nick is fully aware of the Statutory Guidance on Safeguarding Children in Education and CURA procedure for recording Safeguarding concerns.

**2004 – 2008 Teacher of History at Albemarle Independent College**

History at Albemarle has been particularly successful with overseas candidates. Since 2006, I’ve also offered an AS/A2 course in Philosophy (AQA) that proved popular with Chinese candidates who regard it as more relevant to their studies than British or European history. As the only history teacher at Albemarle, I was effectively my own “department head”, as such, having responsibility for a variety of administrative roles. Apart from the day-to-day teaching, the structuring, planning and delivery of the appropriate syllabus, ensuring the production of coursework and submission procedures, design of ‘centre-designed’ courses—at GCSE and GCE levels—book purchases, liaison with exam boards, school administrators, pupil reports, mock invigilation, marking and parent’s evenings.

**2005 – 2006: Visiting Tutor at Hammersmith and West London College.**

As part of a drive to broaden the range of the Humanities Department at Hammersmith, we offered students the option of sitting AQA’s AS/A2 in Philosophy. This was seen as quite a brave move because philosophy qualifications are usually offered at Sixth-Forms and not considered appropriate qualifications for so-called “tech-college” students.

**2005 – 2006: Teacher of History at David Game College.**

Taught GCSE AQA ‘B’ (Modern World), AS-A2 Edexcel History.

**2005 – 2006: Teacher of Modern and Ancient History at Holborn College.**

Holborn College was an Independent Sixth Form College annexed to the main College of Law. There, I taught GCSE AQA ‘B’ (Modern World), GCE AS-A2 Edexcel History and AS-A2 OCR Ancient History. Again, I was largely responsible for my own “department”, as such, with responsibility for a variety of teaching and course administrative roles

**2005 – 2006: Teacher Training .**

As part of my ITT, I taught between December and March 2001-02 at Stanley Technical School, Croydon. From October to December 2001, I taught at Dunraven School, Lambeth.