

April Interviews

Interviewee: Zainab

Capacity: Club Member

Hello Zainab, how are you today?

Hello! I am really good, thank you, how are you?

I am good, thank you for asking.

We are here to interview you as a club member for K-History Club. To start off, could you please introduce yourself?

Okay. Hello, I am Zainab and I am in the K-History Club! I have been in K-History Club for... maybe a year now? And it is great there!

Alright. I am also thinking of joining K-History but I have not had time yet.

Oh, you totally should join. It is so much fun honestly.

Why did you choose this club when there are plenty of others to choose from?

Okay so, it is a funny story. When I first was going to join K-History Club, I would join all their Open Meetings, which were on the main server. Then Soora was like, "Oh my goodness, you should totally join!", and then same with Ishanavi. I was like, "Okay. Well, these two seem like great people, this club seems really fun and I really like history as well" so I ended up joining. Because, you know, great leadership and I really like history.

Yeah, history is cool. I like history.

So how long did you say you were in this club?

I want to say just about a year...? But maybe shorter than that.

What is your favorite topic that you have covered thus far in the club?

My favorite topic is probably comfort women.

Darcy: What is that?



Oh, I can tell you! Okay, it might be a bit triggering but during the war what would happen sometimes is that soldiers would take women with them. Forcefully take women from the country with them and then keep them nearby where the battle was happening, and they would - this is a little bit triggering - basically use those women for pleasure. So, yeah, they would be taken to war, forced to stay there, yeah.

Darcy: Ah!

Yeah... It can be a bit triggering, that is why I just gave that little warning there.

Have you studied this topic before?

I did a little bit of it before coming into the club.

Are you interested in History in general or just Korean History?

I am actually quite interested in History in general, I think mostly in war History, but I am quite interested in just general History, overall.

How long have you been interested in History?

Okay, that is a good question. [laughs] I want to say about three years. Three years, maybe? I have been interested in history for three years now. Because we do history at school as well and three years ago was when I started getting interested in it.

Do you have in-depth knowledge of the history of any other countries?

I want to say... not really. I do not have much knowledge of other countries. I try to learn more about them but so far I do not have much.

Is that how you got interested in it by the way, through school?

Yes, school is how I first got interested in history! Which is a funny thing. But yeah, school is how I first got interested in history.

History is pretty great. I like Asian history the most.

Asian History is very interesting, just from what I have learnt in the club, it is very interesting - because obviously, in the club, part of Japanese history also



mixes in since there is a link between Japanese and Korean history. So it is great. It is fun to learn about Asian history.

Are there any other countries whose History you are interested in learning about?

Hmm... Well, I think Russian history is quite interesting, because I learn a little bit of Russian history in school. They do not go into much detail but from what I have heard, from my own research and everything, Russian history is quite interesting.

Why was it that you wanted to join K-History?

Definitely because I like Korean culture and knowing where that culture kind of started is always really nice, you know, knowing where culture starts.

Do you go to the meetings purely out of interest or as a way of helping you study Korean history?

A bit of both. [*laughs*] A bit of both because I find meetings really interesting. Soora plans [for] them so well. They are kind of interactive and they are fun. Other club members are loads of fun to be in meetings with as well. Also learning, as I just said, about Korean history. It is always very good to learn about where the culture and everything came from. So it is a bit of both.

What is a fun memory you have from your time in the club?

Okay, okay, this is a weird cool memory but basically, it was kind of... we were learning about cults! Cults, right? We were learning about cults, and we were looking into which K-pop idols kind of were involved in cults anywhere, right, and well first of all, I was shocked because Chungha was on the list. So I was like, "Wait, what?" You know, that was really shocking. But then also, JYP was on the list, and JYP had hosted a whole cult meeting, it was- I will remember that moment forever because I was so shocked, I was like, "Whoa! No way!"

That is crazy

Yeah, I know, right? I was like, "No way." I was so shocked.

Wow...



I am aware that you are part of leadership for lots of clubs yourself, as well as in school; how do you manage to make time to join K-History meetings?

Well, there are multiple different time slots for the K-History meetings that I can join. I always try to come to the one earlier in the week. If I miss that one then there is always the next one that I can go to. I just make sure that I arrange my time in a way that nothing will clash with the other, everything has its own specific little time zone where I have to do that, focus on that, and then focus on the next thing.

That is good time management, to be honest

[laughs] Yeah.

The club usually uses either presentations or YouTube videos, right?

Yes!

Which one do you prefer?

Ohh, that is a good question. I think... the presentations. Because with the presentations, I can always sit there, read over it in my own time kind of thing while Soora is talking. Whereas with videos, it kind of just goes through everything. So, I think I definitely prefer presentations.

What are the interesting things you have learnt in the club?

Oh, there is a lot, okay, there is so much. First of all, I did not think that cults were such a prominent thing in Korea, they are not massively prominent of course but it just never ran through my head that they were as prominent as they are, that is one thing.

Yeah, I have seen a lot of those videos. There are like these kinds of cult people coming up to you and stuff.

Exactly! We did this little kind of quiz thing where it was like, "Oh, which one do you think might be a way that a cult member is trying to recruit you in Korea?" And literally anything, it was asking you for directions to places, asking you for help with something and loads. I was like, "Whoa that is so..." I do not know if it is just me but in my country here, we are not warned about people asking you for directions and trying to make you join a cult. So I found that absolutely crazy and I also found it crazy because I had not known that



for a period of time, Japan had control over Korea. I did not know that! That was new information to me, I was really shocked and it was great to learn everything about it. Literally everything, even with the royal family and all that, it was great. And then another thing is the history of the Korean alphabet, 한글, right, with Kim Sejong - Ki-kim! King Sejong. [laughs] We watched multiple different movies as well on how the alphabet came to be and it was great, honestly. So those are some of the great things we have talked about in the club.

Can you name something you have gained from being in the club?

This might sound really weird [laughs] but confidence! It sounds really weird because how do you gain confidence in K-History Club, but it is kind of like... Soora is a very encouraging person, right? So I will be there, quiet, and Soora just does her thing and just encourages everyone to join in. Everyone makes me feel really comfortable in the club, then I just feel very comfortable to speak my mind on certain things and I feel that it has given me a lot of confidence.

How is club leadership?

[laughs] I feel like I have said a lot about club leadership because they are absolutely amazing. Soora, hands-down, [is a] wonderful leader, and Beata as well, [is an] amazing secretary. I am not sure if Beata is a secretary or a co-leader actually, but either way, Beata is amazing. Beata is basically there at every meeting [laughs] and just- it is just nice to see them both always there, interacting with each other, being really kind to everyone, really uplifting - it is a great part of my day to be honest.

Yeah, I have heard great things about Soora.

Yeah! She is- she is crazy.

And how do you like the assignments that you get?

[laughs] Okay, I love the assignments. Sometimes I act really sad and upset about the little exam-style assignments but I absolutely love them. Soora makes these little exam papers, they are so cute and it makes me so happy to fill them out. And then other times as well when it is 'write an article', 'make an artistic piece', I am not very artistic so I generally make a moodboard and



then write an article. I love writing articles so the assignments [are] amazing, in my opinion. [laughs]

What has been your favorite assignment so far?

Ohh, okay, hm. This might just be because of how I chose to lay it out but at one point we had an assignment on LGBTQ in Korea and I made a little article page and I was able to really work with the colors, I loved that. I really love working with colors, maybe that is why I liked the assignment so much. I really liked layering it out, writing the assignment, each part of it. And then another assignment that I really really liked is actually the one I am doing this month - not everyone has this assignment. There were people that could sign up to do presentations on certain topics within Korean culture and kind of the history of them. I chose to sign up for 'Marriage and Dating in Korea', and make a presentation - I love making presentations, so making the presentation was definitely one of my favorite assignments.

Do you receive feedback for the assignments?

Yes. Yes, we do, actually. If we have exam-style assignments then Soora usually goes through it and tells us, first of all the answers, but also how many marks we get because we get hearts based on how many things we got right. So she will tell us, "Oh, you got this out of this for this exam and these are the answers to everything." So we do get feedback on those and also, when we have articles or artistic things to write, Soora tends to tell us, "Oh, I saw this on yours", "Oh, I really liked what you did there", "Oh, could you explain this?" So yeah, Soora does give us a lot of feedback.

How are hearts given out for artistic assignments?

[laughs] [There is a] problem there; I have never done an artistic assignment - I think what happens is that when you do the assignment, there is a set amount of hearts you get. I am not sure. So I think, if you do an assignment, there is a set amount of hearts you get and once you have done it, you get those hearts. Other than that, for things that are not assignments, hearts are given out when we do little quiz sections. So, sometimes, during the meetings, Soora will have a topic there and she will say, "Who remembers what this is from?" For example, I mentioned King Sejong earlier; "Who remembers which King was it that started off the 한글 alphabet? Who can



remember the name?” And then everyone will just say what they think and Soora will be like, “There are three hearts for whoever gets this!” and then whoever gets it gets three hearts. If two people get it, they both get three hearts or they both get one and a half hearts - well, one heart - yeah, it is kind of... usually given out like that. So for exams, however many you get right, however many hearts you get; for meetings, if you answer the question right, then you get hearts.

And how do you like the assignment feedback generally?

Hmm... I really like it! I really like the way that it is done. I do not know about everyone else but I know that I really like the way that it is done. I really like how she just tells us, “Oh, this is how many out of how many you got.”, “Oh, I really like what you did there!”, “Oh, could you explain this to me?”. I really like that, especially when Soora asks us about what we have put there. It really shows us that when we do the assignments, she actually goes through everything and reads it all. I do not know how Soora does that, but it is great.

She sounds like an amazing person. I have not personally had an interaction with her.

Oh, you should, she is so nice, honestly.

Darcy: You have never had an interaction with her?

Never, never had an interaction with her.

Never? Not ever, not even small interaction? Wow, I thought Soora was everywhere, honestly.

That is kinda surprising, yeah. She is everywhere.

Yeah, exactly, she is everywhere!

I do not remember, I do not think I have had an interaction. I have just heard about Soora. I do not think I have had an interaction with her.

Oh, well, you should be excited for when you have your first interaction with Soora because Soora is honestly... [laughs]

Yeah, I will look forward to that.

Are there any topics you would like to see covered in the future?



Hm... I think we voted on this at one point and I had something to say but... currently... currently I do not think so. [laughs]

Did you have any expectations when going into this club?

Hmm.... no, not really. I just thought, "Oh, that is a fun club! Nice leadership, will learn about History." I guess, when I first joined I kind of hesitated, but that was because I was like, "Shoot, what if that is all gonna be too much information and then I forget everything for my exams?" But it is really not too much information! It is a really good amount of information. We go over it a lot so it is easy to keep up, so, yeah.

What are some things you wish to improve about the club?

The club in general, like overall?

Yeah, overall.

I... actually can not think of anything! Honestly K-History meetings might be some of my absolute favorite meetings. I do not think there is anything I would change about the club if I had the chance

I mean that is great haha.

Cool - if I have the time, I will try to join the next Open Meeting.

You definitely should! You should. [laughs] It is so much fun!

Would you recommend joining this club?

Definitely, 100%. I would recommend it.

Yeah, it sounds like a fun club.

It really is.

Well, thank you for your time!

[laughs] No problem!

We hope you have a lovely year both in and outside of KSG.

Thank you and you too!

It was fun interviewing you!



[laughs] Thank you, it was great having you as an interviewer.

Thank you!

