



World History Past Modals of Possibility and Probability Discussion Questions

Choose one of the conspiracy theories below and change the sentence with words and expressions in the **useful language** box below to make it have the amount of likelihood that you think is really so. Does your partner agree with you?

President Kennedy (=JFK) was assassinated by the CIA in conjunction with the Mafia.

An alien was dissected at the Roswell American air force base.

Jack the Ripper was never caught because he was someone important and the police protected him

The Americans never would've used the atom bomb on a European country

The Americans dropped the atom bomb more to scare the Soviet Union than to stop the war, because they knew it was going to finish soon anyway

Alexander the Great was gay

9/11 was planned by the US government as an excuse to invade Iraq and so gain control of its oil

There weren't any Jews in the World Trade Center on 9/11

The explosion in the Pentagon on 9/11 came from inside the building

Princess Diana was murdered by the British Royal Family because she was going to marry a Muslim

The Apollo moon landing was a hoax filmed in a studio by Stanley Kubrick

The Europeans or Americans would've got involved in the Yugoslav War earlier if the Bosnians had been Christians

King Arthur was a real person and was a Roman fighting with Ancient Britons against the invading Germanic Anglo Saxons

Mary Queen of Scots was conspiring to assassinate Queen Elizabeth I

The Japanese deliberately delayed the declaration of war until after the attack on Pearl Harbour

The main reason Henry VIII split the Church of England from the Catholic Church and so turned England into a Protestant country was so he could divorce his wife and marry Anne Boleyn

Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had a child or children

The main reason British sailors went exploring in the age of Elizabeth I was to impress her and so marry her and become King



Useful language:

“... must have...”

“... could have...”

“... possibly...”

... can't have...

“... might have...”

“... probably...”

“... almost certainly...”

... may have...

Which ideas above are included in movies, books or TV programmes you know or know about?

What other historical movies have you seen (from your country or other countries)? How likely do you think the story in that movie is to be true?