



A Level History

Key contact: Mr A White (Head of Department)
Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

A Level History is a subject that will broaden the inquisitive mind and foster an appetite for discussion and debate. Employers and universities respect A Level History as it is a unique and valuable academic subject. History students are independent thinkers, open-minded, disciplined and good at problem solving. It is a subject that encourages good communication skills, the ability to form a judgement and support it with a range of evidence and the ability to make assessments of a situation. Ultimately History is a subject that challenges opinions and teaches students to establish and sustain an argument.

Our teachers are enthusiastic and committed to providing enjoyable lessons and opportunities for students. If you enjoy learning about different societies and individuals and are excited by our course then History could be for you.

Aims of the course

- To develop key historical skills, for example, evaluation and judgement.
- To captivate the analytical mind with a range of contemporary sources and interpretations of the past.
- To fuel the enquiring mind with a study of Tudor England.
- To stimulate a passion for 20th Century History with a depth study of Russia.
- To encourage an awareness of how current affairs have been shaped by the past.

What will you study?

Unit 1 - The Tudors 1485-1603

This unit provides students with the opportunity to learn about the entire Tudor period. Students will start with the reign of Henry VII and the consolidation of his power, followed by Henry VIII and his struggle for royal supremacy. Students will also gain knowledge of his successors, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I and debate how far they are convinced by historians when they write about the turmoil of the mid-Tudor crisis and the instability of the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth. Key themes that students will study include; the volatile arena of foreign policy and religious turmoil.

Unit 2 - Revolution and Dictatorship 1917-53

This unit provides students with the opportunity to study the collapse of Tsarist Russia, followed by the establishment of the Communist state and the rise of Stalin. Key events that students will study include the return and impact of Lenin, the devastating policy of War Communism, the terror and purges and the unprecedented industrial preparation for World War Two. Students will also enjoy fully immersing themselves in a study about the creation of the Stalinist state and they will also carefully consider how the international community viewed Stalin.

Unit 3 – Historical investigation

(Coursework worth 20% of the A Level qualification)

Students are able to conduct an individual enquiry into the status of Black Americans from 1860-1980. Students will select their own enquiry questions from a range of interesting historical issues, for example, they might like to study the impact of post Civil War Reconstruction on the status of Black Americans. Their chosen question will give them the opportunity to thoroughly investigate and interrogate a wealth of sources. It will also enable students to engage with conflicting historical arguments about how far the Second World War or how far Martin Luther King transformed the status of Black Americans.

The History Department is extremely well resourced with exam board specific textbooks and a wealth of material for the Historical enquiry unit.

Assessment

The AQA A Level History course is made up of three components;

Paper 1: The Tudors: England 1485-1603. 40% of the A Level qualification.

Paper 2: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-53. 40% of the A Level qualification.

Historical Investigation: The Status of Black American's 1865-1980. 20% of the A Level qualification.



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Possible career path?

Higher Education

Our History A Level students have enjoyed much success in securing university places on History, Law, Politics and English Literature courses to name a few. A Level History is a valued qualification but not just for History. Employers view History as an A Level that demonstrates an analytical mind that is capable of constructing and arguing a case and articulating it with passion. A number of our students have combined History with Mathematics or Science and have gone on to read Sciences at university.

Careers

By studying History you will find that many and varied career opportunities will open up for you. Former History students of ours are developing highly successful careers in areas such as journalism, acting, television production, administration, local government, national politics, teaching, architecture, public relations, the law, management, business, and nursing. So if you are interested in people and want to work in a 'people centred' job, History could be for you.

Opportunities

History A Level students benefit from an enriched curriculum with cinema trips to see historical films. They also sample History lectures with Tudor and Russian Professors at the University of Plymouth.

A Level History is a popular A Level choice and it is one which combines well with English Language and Literature, Sociology, Psychology, Languages as well as complementing Maths and the Sciences.

Ultimately, A Level History is a subject that has retained its integrity as a rigorous academic subject that is well respected by employers and universities.

Entrance requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including English and Mathematics **and** History at Grade 6 or above.