



GCSE History

Key contacts: Mr A White
Exam Board: Edexcel

Overview of the course:

GCSE History builds on Key Stage 3 History as well as introducing you to a range of new topics.

Why choose History?

The GCSE course allows you to delve deeper into topics that you may never have studied or briefly looked upon. The course is designed to allow you to engage with historical investigations aiding you to become a critical and reflective thinker through using a range of sources and interpretations. We will also develop your ability to ask relevant questions about the past and investigate issues critically. With this new knowledge, you will develop your historical skills allowing you to be critical about the world.

GCSE History allows you to evolve both your reasoning skills and your ability to organise and communicate your knowledge and understanding in different ways to be able to reach substantiated conclusions. These skills are necessary in the modern world as it encourages you to question what you see and develops your independent research skills, something which so many jobs are asking for more and more.

What will you study?

The course consists of four main topics:

Migrants in Britain, c800 – present and Notting Hill, c1948 – c1970

This unit will explore ideas about the causes of migration to Britain such as the importance of trade, empire and religion. Within this topic we will also study case studies such as the Viking city of York, Irish migration in Liverpool and Twentieth Century migration to Bristol developing a broad understanding of the key moments that have shaped Britain. Students will also be required to use sources to investigate the importance of migration in Notting Hill.

Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

Within this unit we shall investigate and discover information about the plots and revolts against Elizabeth. As well as exploring the Spanish Armada and what it was like to live in Elizabethan England.

The American West, c1835 – c1895

This unit allows you to investigate the Plains Indians, their beliefs and culture. We will see how this changes with the US policies towards them and eventually leading to the destruction of their way of life.

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

As well as investigating what life was like in Nazi Germany, we will look at how Hitler was able to gain his position in 1933. How this then led to his control of Germany and the German people through the creation of a dictatorship and how he dealt with any opposition.

Assessment

GCSE History is a two-year course which is examined at the end.

There are three examinations at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Migrants in Britain, c800 – present and Notting Hill, c1948 – c1970.
Worth 30%

Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558 – 88 and The American West, c1835 – c1895 Worth 40%

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918 – 39.
Worth 30%

Possible career path:

History at GCSE opens doorways to many potential careers. Due to the critical thinking that we develop, GCSE History is desirable for jobs in journalism, policing, HR, teaching, legal careers, archaeology, museum conservation and many more.