



# A Level History

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

## 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 develop a broad and strong historical understanding of modern European History as well as of Tudor England.
- To encourage an awareness of how current affairs have been shaped by the past.

## What will you study?

### Unit 1 – Germany and West Germany, 1918–89

This unit explores political change in Germany from 1918 to 1989 and its impact on economic, social and cultural developments. Students will also assess historical interpretations, particularly the debate over Hitler's foreign policy and the causes of the Second World War. Key themes include; political transformation, economic change and the impact of conflict on society.

### Unit 2 – The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46

This unit examines Italy's transition from a weak liberal state to a fascist dictatorship and eventual return to democracy. Students will explore how instability enabled the rise of authoritarian rule and assess the impact of these changes. Key themes include; the breakdown of democracy, dictatorship and the effects of war.

### Unit 3 – Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603

This unit investigates how the Tudor monarchy dealt with rebellion and disorder through both broad developments and key events. Students will consider changes in government and society, and how the Tudors secured their authority. Key themes include; rebellion, government development and royal power.

### Unit 4 – Non-Examined Assessment

This unit enables students to complete an independently researched coursework assignment focused on a chosen historical question, problem or issue. Students will develop skills in analysing and evaluating historical interpretations, while gaining an understanding of the role and methods of the historian. They will be required to form a critical judgement supported by relevant reading and assess the views of three historians.

## Assessment

The Edexcel A Level History course is made up of four components;

**Paper 1:** Germany and West Germany, 1918–89, 30% of the A Level qualification.

**Paper 2:** The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46, 20% of the A Level qualification

**Paper 3:** Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603, 30% of the A Level qualification.

Non-Examined Assessment: 20% of the A Level qualification.

## 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.



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## 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 visits to prominent locations of Tudor History such as the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace. They also sample lectures from university professors as part of the department's membership of the Historical Association.

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.