

HISTORY



Course information

History provides students with an excellent range of skills including those of research, analysis, critical thinking and communication. The nature of the subject teaches students to present coherent and effectively argued evaluations of historical problems, taking advantage of up to date research and developing their own powers of judgment.

History isn't a subject that's stuck in the past - historical events are what have shaped society worldwide into what it is today. The A Level History course has been designed to help you understand the value and significance of world events in the past. Moreover, in the process you will gain a deeper understanding of social, cultural, religious and ethnic issues that have helped shape History and the world we live in. An A Level in History gives you knowledge and skills which will prepare you for higher education, and which are also useful in any career.

"With a history degree you can aspire to be prime minister, press baron and media mogul, overlord of the BBC, 'the most famous lawyer in the land', archbishop of Canterbury, top spook, leading diplomat, police chief, Oxbridge chancellor and vice-chancellor, England footballer and football manager, or chairman of the richest football club in the world, famous comedian or celebrated pop musician, best-selling novelist, trade union boss, business millionaire and perhaps even one day monarch of the realm."

Professor David Nicholls, Manchester Metropolitan University

Assessment

In the AQA syllabus, A Level students must take assessments in all three of the following units:

Unit 1: Breadth Study: The Tudors: England 1485 – 1603 (40% of A level)

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- *How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?*
- *In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?*
- *How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?*
- *How did English society and economy change and with what effects?*
- *How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?*
- *How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?*

Assessment: Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes, including source evaluation and essays.

Unit 2: Depth Study: The Cold War, c1945 – 1991 (40% of A level)

This option provides for the study in depth of the evolving course of international relations during an era of tension between communist and capitalist powers which threatened nuclear Armageddon. It allows students to explore why the Cold War developed and how it shaped international affairs on a global scale for nearly 50 years. Key issues covered include:

- The Origins of the Cold War, c1945–1949
- The Widening of the Cold War beyond Europe into Asia, 1949–1955
- The Cold War intensifies, 1955–1963
- Confrontation and cooperation, c1963–1972
- Détente and the Brezhnev era, 1972–1985
- The ending of the Cold War, 1985–1991

Assessment: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, including source evaluation and essays.

Unit 3: Historical investigation - Civil Rights in America c.1863-1968 (20% of A level)

A personal study of 4,500 max. words based on a period covering approximately 100 years. It will draw upon the skills you have developed in investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. Teacher guidance will be provided.

What can you expect from studying History at A Level?

- Highly qualified and supportive staff who are keen to help and eager to see you succeed.
- A friendly and positive approach to you and your studies.
- Small teaching groups.
- Personal feedback that helps you to improve.
- Enjoyable and challenging tasks and discussion.
- History as a subject uses all the skills that are very relevant to modern employment. Presentations, research, putting an argument together are common features of studying History. We regularly practice the use of ICT skills to enhance study and learning. Because of these modern skills a History background is an advantage in many jobs and careers.
- Many students from the department leave to study History at university including York, Leeds, Durham, Sheffield, Bristol and Exeter. Many others who have studied History have gone on to study Law and combinations which include History.
- Results have been very good over the past three years with all students gaining a grade C and above.

There is also the opportunity to become involved in Sixth Form Discussion group, attend Sixth Form Movie Club, write articles for our own magazine or take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme.

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