

History A-level

About the History A Level Course:

History A Level will develop your critical and analytical thinking skills, in particular your ability to construct and sustain a reasoned argument. You will analyse historical processes of cause, effects, change and continuity, and evaluate historical sources of evidence and Historians' interpretations. The course helps deepen your understanding of the nature of history as a discipline, and build your research, note-taking and essay writing techniques.

In the second year, you will hone your independent research skills as part of the coursework unit.

Structure of the Course:

The first year explores "Revolutions in Early Modern and Modern Europe". Unit 1 is on Britain 1625-1701 and Unit 2 on Russia 1894-1924. Through these units you will consider changes in rule from monarchy to republic, and autocracy to socialist state, within the context of wider social, economic and religious change. You will also develop an awareness of issues of class and ideology.

The second year of the course explores "Conflict in ideology in late 19 and 20 Century World" In Unit 3 you will either examine changes in political ideology and forms of government in Germany 1871-1990, within a wider social and economic context. In Unit 4 you will examine the conflict between Communism and Capitalism, and independently research and evaluate Historians' differing interpretations of the causes of the Cold War, c1943-1953.

Method of Assessment:

- Unit 1 Britain 1625-1701: Written Examination 2 hrs 15 mins 2 essays and 1 interpretation evaluation (30%)
- Unit 2 Russia 1894-1924: Written Examination 1 hr 30 mins 1 essay and 1 source evaluation (20%)
- Unit 3 Germany 1871-1990: Written Examination 2 hrs 15 mins 2 essays and 1 source evaluation (30%)
- Unit 4 Origins of the Cold War: Coursework Research, evaluation of different Historical interpretations and findings (20%)

Entry Requirements:

Minimum entry: Grade 6 in GCSE History and Grade 6 in English Literature /Language.

Possible subject career paths: Areas that require sharp analysis and argument, or thorough and systematic management of evidence: Law, Politics, Journalism, Local Government, Teaching, Museum Curating and archive work. There are also many roles and opportunities in industry and business for students with a background in history. It is seen as a favourable fourth subject for those wanting to go into medicine and is a facilitating subject for entry to the Russell Group top 20 universities.