



History

A Level

Head of Department:

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Exam Board: OCR

What is the course about?

History is the study of the past. The content of the A level course will be new to students, which builds on their understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study. It develops students' interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance, with some students each choosing to pursue this study further at university. In a typical week students will analyse primary source material, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of different interpretations, develop arguments about the relative significance of different causes and add to their growing knowledge and understanding through reading and carrying out individual research. Essays do have to be written as well.

What will I study in the first year?

In the first year you will study two units, one on the Early Stuarts, Civil War and Interregnum (1603-1660), and one on the French Revolution and Napoleon (1774-1815).

What will I study in the second year?

In the second year you will study Russia and its rulers from 1855-1956. This unit takes a thematic approach when looking at developments over the entire time period and also focuses in depth on three periods (Tsar Alexander II, the Provisional Government of 1917 and the Khrushchev era). In the second year students also complete a piece of coursework on a topic of their choosing.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is 80% exam and 20% coursework. All assessment takes place in the second year.

What skills will I develop in this course?

Skills developed through the study of History are highly transferable. By the end of the course students are able to construct and support an argument, think critically and work independently. They can evaluate evidence against a set of criteria and present a reasoned conclusion, make links and connections between disparate sources before making a judgement, and analyse information.

What does this subject offer for higher education and future careers?

This subject is an "enabling subject" in terms of university entrance and is highly regarded by admissions tutors and employers. History remains a very popular university course. The academic rigour and the skills developed are transferable to a range of disciplines and careers, including law, management, politics, social research, industrial relations and journalism, as well as more obvious careers in education, the heritage industry or academia.