

# HISTORY - A LEVEL (A Linear Course)

## Course introduction

History at A level involves an in-depth study of aspects of British, European and World History during the 16th, 19th and 20th Centuries. As such it has a broad and fascinating appeal and provides a sound basis for an understanding of the world in which we live.



## Areas covered by the course

### YEAR 12

#### Unit 1

Exam is 25% of A Level - 1 hour 30 minutes

**Unit Y107: England 1547 – 1603: The Later Tudors**

#### Key topics

The stability of the monarchy  
Religious changes  
Rebellion and unrest  
Elizabeth and religion  
The nature of the Elizabethan Monarchy, Government and Parliament  
Elizabeth's management of financial, economic and social affairs.  
Elizabeth's later years 1588 – 1603.

The assessment for this unit has two sections. The second section, dealing with the period study, gives students the chance to demonstrate their extended writing skills by providing a choice of questions, from which they answer one. The first section is a document study, giving students the chance to demonstrate their source skills.

#### Unit 2

Exam is 15% of A Level – 1 hours

**Unit Y221: Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963**

#### Key topics

The development and establishment of the Weimar Republic  
The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship  
Defeat of Germany 1939-1949  
Divided Germany 1949-1963

Students are given a choice of questions, from which they must choose one and answer both parts in the A Level.

### YEAR 13

#### Unit 3

Exam is 40% of A Level – 2 hours 30 minutes

**Unit Y319: Civil Rights in the USA – 1865-1992**

#### Key topics

African Americans  
Trade Unions  
Native American Indians  
Women  
Civil Rights in the Gilded Age 1875-95  
Civil Rights and the New Deal  
Malcolm X and Black Power

The thematic essay requires students to consider developments over approximately 100 years (you answer two from a choice of three). The in-depth interpretations element requires students to use their detailed knowledge of specified events, individuals or issues to comprehend, analyse and evaluate the ways in which the past has been interpreted by historians.

## Entrance requirements

Students who wish to study History must have acquired a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalent at 4-9, including Maths and English Language. Achievement of a 6 grade or above in one of the Humanities subjects is also required. Most students who opt for this subject have already studied History at GCSE but it is not essential to have done so. Indeed many students who have not studied History before have been very successful at A Level. A love of reading and the ability to carry out independent research is essential.

#### Unit 4

**Coursework: Personal study – 20% of A Level**  
**Russia History 1855-1964 from Tsars to Dictators**

This is the internally assessed element of the course and provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest through coursework.  
The A level is designed as a two year course – students would be expected to sit all of the exams at the end of Year 13.

## How the course is assessed

Unit groups 1-3 are assessed entirely through written examinations that are externally marked. All examinations take place at the end of the course available every June. Unit group 4 is assessed internally, then moderated externally and submitted before the examinations begin, in May.

## How the course is taught

History lessons are taught in a number of ways including the use of Power Points, structured notes, debates, thinking skills activities, group and paired presentations. As well as directed learning, students are also expected to read and make their own notes from a variety of texts.

## Career opportunities

History provides a route to a wide variety of Higher Education opportunities and ultimately can lead to careers such as Accountancy, Law, Journalism, Business, Politics, Teaching, Archivist and many more. Indeed it is fair to say that many of the world's great thinkers are or were historians.

