

A Level History

Examination board & syllabus: AQA (7042)

Minimum Entry Requirements: GCSE History Grade B/Grade 5 and English Grade 5 or English Literature Grade 5

Course Outline:

The course is split into three modules, two examinations (which are taken at the end of Year 13) and one historical investigation (internally assessed).

HIS1G Challenge and Transformation: Britain c1851-1964 (2 ½ hours, worth 80 marks)

In Year 12 we investigate the political upheaval of 19th Century Britain in terms of political, social and economic changes and the challenges to the government in the form of Trade unions and Radical pressure groups. Students who continue with History to A2 will study how the Great Wars of the 20th Century transformed Britain.

HIS2Q The American Dream: Reality or illusion, 1945-1980 (2 1/2 hours, worth 80 marks)

In Year 12 we study in depth the challenges faced by the USA both home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War and investigate the extent to which all Americans experienced "the American dream". We cover key concepts and ideas about American identity, communism and equality. Students who continue to A2 will focus on the latter part of the time period (1963-1980) and the success and failures of both the Johnson and Nixon presidencies and home and abroad.

Historical Investigation (3000-3500 words worth 40 marks, taken at A2)

In this we look at all the reasons for and interpretations of the creation of Germany as a single country in 1871. Close attention is paid to the role of Otto von Bismarck in achieving this and how historians have interpreted his influence on events.

Assessment/Exams:

Two exams each worth 40% (HIS1G Challenge and Transformation: Britain c1851-1964 worth, HIS2Q The American Dream: Reality or illusion, 1945-1980) taken at the end of Year 13. Additionally you complete a 3000-3500 word Historical Investigation worth 20% of the A Level.

Equipment required / Approx Cost:

One textbook for each module (from £10 new).

Independent Study Tips:

Read for at least 30 minutes every day for each module on issues studied in class to develop a deeper understanding of each module.

Higher Education Progression:

A Level History is essential for History degrees and is highly regarded by top universities. It combines well with Government and Politics, English, Economics, Business Studies, Languages and Psychology at A Level and suits similar courses at university degree level.

Career Opportunities:

A Level History is seen as a useful qualification in most, if not all professions – especially law, media, banking, journalism, public relations, advertising, public sector administration, teaching and many more.

Useful Websites:

www.aqa.org.uk