

A Level History

BIG IDEAS

Our A-level History qualifications have been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. Our qualifications will help them to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging topics available to them throughout the course will provide them with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A-level historians, and also to become active, engaged and informed citizens. The discipline of history and a knowledge and understanding of the past will also help students to understand their own identity and significant aspects of the world in which they live, and provide them with the basis for further wider learning and study.

WHAT WILL WE STUDY?

You will have one teacher for Component 1 (USA) and one teacher for Component 2 (Britain). Both teachers will teach you for the NEA (coursework).

Component 1: Breadth Study

1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

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

- How did government, political authority and political parties change and develop?
- In what ways did the economy and society of the USA change and develop?
- How did the role of the USA in world affairs change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How united was the USA during this period?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Component 2: Depth Study

2S The making of modern Britain, 1951-2007

This option provides for the study in depth of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.

Component 3: Historical Investigation (non-exam assessment)

The purpose of the Historical Investigation is to enable students to develop the skills, knowledge and historical understanding acquired through the study of the examined

components of the specification. Through undertaking the Historical Investigation students will develop an enhanced understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work. The Historical Investigation contributes towards meeting the aims and objectives of the A-level specification. In particular, it encourages students to:

- ask relevant and significant questions about the past and undertake research
- develop as independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers
- acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study
- organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding in a piece of sustained writing

The topic for the NEA will be the development of the English Reformation, 1520-1603. Students will be taught an outline of the topic and how to research and write a piece of extended historical writing, and will be expected to show independence in researching and writing their essay.

HOW WILL WE STUDY?

All A Level History classes are taught by specialist History teachers with many years of experience of successful teaching at GCSE level, as shown by the outstanding A Level results achieved consistently over the last decade. You will take part in a variety of activities in lessons, using a variety of resources. You will work independently, in pairs and groups. You will take part in debates and discussions, to enable you to develop the ability to make substantiated judgements and think critically. You will gain a vivid picture of the past through written, visual and audio sources, both primary and secondary.

HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: 2 hours 30 minutes exam (One compulsory source-based question, and a choice of two from three essays)

Component 2: 2 hours 30 minutes exam (One compulsory source-based question, and a choice of two from three essays)

Component 3: One 3500-4000 word essay

You will practise the different styles of question regularly throughout the course. Each time you are assessed you will be given feedback on how to improve, the opportunity to act on this feedback, and model answers.