

GCSE History

BIG IDEAS

Our GCSE in History A encourages students to develop knowledge of particular key events, periods and societies. They study topics and themes from their local context as well as general British and world history, helping them discover the relevance of the past to an understanding of the present. Their study of History at GCSE should inspire them to deepen their understanding of the people, periods and events studied and enable them to think critically, weigh evidence, evaluate arguments, make informed decisions and develop perspective and judgement. This will prepare them for a role as informed, thoughtful and active 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?

Paper 1:

Period Study: International Relations 1918-2001

- The interwar years and the origins of the Second World War
- The Cold War
- The world after the Cold War

Depth Study: Germany 1925-55: Democracy to dictatorship to division

- Democracy to dictatorship: the rise and consolidation of the Nazi regime 1925-34
- A national community? Nazi Germany and its people 1933-39
- Destruction to democracy: The Second World War and its legacy in Germany 1939-55

Paper 2:

War and British Society

- War and society in medieval Britain cAD790-1500 – Vikings and Saxons; The Norman Conquest; The rise and fall of the feudal system
- War and society in early modern Britain – Elizabeth I's wars; Civil Wars, Anglo-Scottish Wars
- War and society in modern Britain – Wars of empire; the World Wars; Conflicts since 1945

Paper 3:

British depth study - Personal Rule to Restoration

- Relationship between parliament and Charles I 1629-42
- The political and religious impact of war 1642-49
- The nature and extent of political and religious change 1649-1660

Study of the historic environment – Castles

- Castles: Form and function c1000-1750
- Kenilworth Castle

HOW WILL WE STUDY?

All GCSE History classes are taught by specialist History teachers with many years of experience of successful teaching at GCSE level. 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, and through role play activities.

HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minute exam (105 marks, including 5 for spelling, punctuation and grammar, and use of specialist terminology)

Paper 2: 1 hour exam (50 marks)

Paper 3: 1 hour 15 minute exam (55 marks, including 5 for spelling, punctuation and grammar, and use of specialist terminology)

The exams are a mixture of short knowledge based questions, source questions, essay questions and in Paper 1, two historiography questions about interpretations of Appeasement and the origins of the Cold War.

You will practise the three different exam papers regularly throughout Year 10 and 11. Each time you are assessed you will be given feedback on how to improve, the opportunity to act on this feedback, and model answers.