History A Level

A-LEVEL History is a two year course. We follow the OCR History A H505 specification and we study the following units:

Unit 1: England 1445-1509, Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII including the War of the Roses. (25%)
This will involve the study of the dramatic events of the Wars of the Roses and the controversy surrounding the iconic Richard III. It will also deal with the rise of the Tudor family.

Unit 2: Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963 (15%)
This will involve the study of the Weimar Republic and the rise of the Nazis. We will examine the 1930s under Nazi rule and the impact of World War Two. Finally, we will investigate the division of Germany in the Cold War.

Unit 3: Civil rights in the USA 1865-1992 (40%)
This unit takes the form of a thematic paper which addresses cause and consequence and change and continuity through the period of nearly 150 years. We will investigate four separate aspects of civil rights - the struggle for equality by black Americans, Native Americans, women and the fight for working rights by the working class.

Unit 4: Topic based essay - an investigation. (20%)
Students can select their own topic for investigation and have to use a range of both sources and interpretations to reach supported judgments and involves the construction of a 3000-4000 word essay.

There are three final examinations which total 80% of the final marks. 20% of the marks are awarded for the coursework element which consists of an investigation into a topic chosen by the student and presented in the form of an essay.

The course is taught by specialist teachers. It will involve looking at evidence and examining the different interpretations of the historical events we address. There will be seminars and debates as well as written reports and extended essays. This is an academic course and therefore students must be prepared to read widely and should enjoy writing. The coursework element will enable students to investigate a question of their choice and will require the use and evaluation of both sources and interpretations - it offers the opportunity to be an historian!

Throughout the course students will be required to complete extended essays. Teachers will model these and students will learn how to write history in the formal, academic style which is so important for success at this level. Teachers will also provide personal feedback and the use of DIT (Dedicated Improvement Time) is an important feature of A Level lessons.

A Level History is a well-respected qualification and is regarded as a facilitating subject by universities. It is a valuable subject for students who want to go on to study Law and other Humanities degrees. However, the main reason to consider History A Level is because you have an interest in it and enjoy it.

Entry Requirements

- GCSE grade 6 or above in History
- GCSE grade 6 in English