

A-LEVEL / AQA / 2 YEARS

HISTORY

History is a course where students are able to investigate a wide range of historical issues, events and personalities. They will use evidence to formulate convincing arguments and compare different interpretations of events. History encourages scrutiny of sources and encourages questions to be asked. It is a challenging and demanding course although it is one of variety, covering political, religious, social and economic issues.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1 - USA, The Making of a Superpower 1865-1975. A breadth study that covers a wide range of topics, including US politics, foreign policy, changes to society and developments in economy. The period covered is from the end of the American Civil War to the end of the Vietnam War.

Unit 2 - War of the Roses: 1450-1499. A depth study of the civil unrest which dominated England, assessing issues of legitimacy and factionalism. Covering the reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV, Richard III and Henry VII.

Unit 3: Historical Investigation – an independent research project on the Tudor Rebellions, which will result in a 3000-3500 word essay.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

Students will be taught by specialist teachers and will experience a variety of teaching styles. They will have to evaluate and scrutinise historical sources, compare different historical interpretations. In lessons, students will work with a variety of materials, including books, media clips and images to help cover the content. Activities are regularly interactive and involve movement around the class and interacting with other students in small groups or as a class. Developing essay-writing skills is a fundamental part of the course and finally reading around topics and reviewing historiography is imperative.

ASSESSMENT

There will be two exams at the end of Year 13. Both exams will be 2h 30m long and involve writing three essays. Each exam is worth 40% of the A-level and the Historical Investigation is worth 20%.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

History can complement a number of subjects including English, Classics, Law, Politics and many more.

CAREERS/HE INFORMATION

A-level History gives students knowledge and skills which will prepare them for higher education and which are also useful in any career. Students who specialise in History can go on to become historical researchers, work in heritage organisations or become teachers, though History also supports other career paths, such as journalism, politics, law, social work and public services.