

A LEVEL HISTORY

WHAT IS HISTORY?

Many people would say History is what happened in the past. The question is how can we truly know what happened in the past, when so many people have different versions of the events? Being a historian at A Level is like being a detective; you have to study the available evidence and try to understand the reasons behind an event and how it occurred. So, History is not only a record of the past but as an academic subject it is analysing evidence from different periods and trying to filter through different interpretations of events.



WHY SHOULD I STUDY HISTORY?

History is the fascinating study of past events, cultures and societies. Studying History helps you understand the present and explain why events in the past happened as they did. It will also develop important analytical skills, encouraging you to have an enquiring mind and making you think critically about the world around you. It also teaches you to construct coherent arguments and develop clear communication skills. A Level History is highly regarded by universities and can lead to many careers including teaching, law and banking.

USEFUL SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- An enthusiasm for the subject
- To explore how historical events have an influence on the modern day
- The ability to question historical events and interpretations to form a judgement
- To enhance the skills of structured analysis and arguments in essay writing
- The capability to research material independently

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The units of our A Level course are linked by the theme of revolution and cover the following topics:

Unit One: England 1485 – 1558

The Early Tudors

- Government and foreign policy of Henry VII
- Domestic and foreign policy of Wolsey and Henry VIII
- The influence of Thomas Cromwell and the English reformation
- Issues surrounding the role of Edward VI and Mary I
- Religious changes, rebellion and unrest

Unit Two: Russia 1894 – 1941

- The rule of Tsar Nicholas II
- The 1905 and 1917 revolutions and the overthrowing of the Romanov dynasty
- The Russian civil war and the role of Lenin
- The role of Stalin

Or Unit Two: Democracy and dictatorships in Germany 1919—1963

- The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan 1933
- The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939
- The impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939–1949
- Divided Germany: The Federal Republic and the DDR 1949–1963

Unit Three: Civil Rights in the USA 1865 - 1992

- The position and struggle for equality of African Americans
- Trade Union and labour rights protest
- The plight of Native Americans
- Women's struggle for equality

Unit 4: Historical Enquiry Coursework

- A choice of question from an approved subject list.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Units 1 -3, are written exams taken at the end of second year, based on a variety of essay questions and source questions.
- Unit 4, is course work based on an extended study of 3000 – 4000 words, from independent study and research.

COURSE COMMITMENT

You will have about four and a half hours of contact time with the teacher, together with a commitment to study for the same amount of time on your own, this will include extended reading, additional research, compilation of additional notes and essay writing. For unit 4 it will be a requirement that you will do the research for your topic independently, create a structure to answer the key question set and create a draft version during the 6-week summer break in year 1.

COURSE COSTS

Textbooks are provided for the course but some students like to buy their own copies so they can add notes. These are around £15 each, although not compulsory.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We often arrange a variety of optional course trips, for example The British Museum and Parliament in London which costs approximately £130 with an overnight stay. There is also the option to apply to be a part of the Holocaust Education Trust's "Lessons from Auschwitz" which includes a site visit. The department also runs a 1 hour enrichment class every week that covers topics not studied in the course as well as guest speakers, skills based projects and opportunities connected to the Guisborough De Brus project (history in the local area)

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For entry on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9), including a minimum of a grade 4 in Maths, English Language and English Literature. If English is below a grade 4 then you must have a grade 5 in another literary subject. You do not have to have studied History in school

PROGRESSION ROUTES

History teaches important skills such as clear expression and analysing evidence. These skills are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the Police, Law, Politics, Social Work, Teaching, Publishing, Banking and all kinds of Business and Management based careers. Many of our students move on to Higher Education and study History at an advanced level.

Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Birmingham University – **American & Canadian Studies and English Literature with Year Abroad**
- Hull University – **Geography & History / Primary Teaching**
- Liverpool John Moore University – **International Relations & Peace Studies / Law**
- Liverpool University – **English**
- London College of Fashion – **Fashion Management**
- Newcastle University College – **Acting & Performance Practice**
- Northumbria University – **History**
- Cambridge – **Law**
- Oxford - **English Literature**
- Swansea Met University – **Classical Studies & Ancient History**
- Teesside University – **History / Law**
- University of Cumbria – **Primary Education with QTS**
- University of Westminster – **International Marketing**

STUDENT COMMENTS

What our History students say:

“History is a really interesting and intriguing subject. Although it is quite challenging at times, it is thoroughly enjoyable. An A Level in History is also highly regarded by Universities and employers and can lead to a wide range of careers including Law, Teaching and Politics”

“The teachers are really supportive and the subject is really engaging.”

“History is my favourite subject, especially the modern aspect as I can correlate that to modern society. This course has inspired me to study History at undergraduate level. My teacher has offered me lots of support to help me reach my full potential.”

“During my time both through AS and A2 History courses, the help and support from the tutors has been outstanding. They are always there on hand to help whenever it's needed and are always happy to assist your problems whatever the issues may be. Feedback given on submitted work is really helpful and detailed, which makes it easier to reach your full potential, especially when it comes to an exam.”

FURTHER INFORMATION

The full course specification can be found at www.ocr.org.uk

If you require further information, please contact the subject leader

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.
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