

GCSE HISTORY

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WHAT IS THE SUBJECT ABOUT?

Never has it been more vital to study History. To see how important events happen, and the consequences that they cause. To look for patterns occurring, and how influential people can effect everyday decisions made by populations. History is about explaining key events from the past and making judgments about the impact that these had on people and places.

A key focus is working with historical sources such as speeches, photographs, political cartoons and historian's interpretations, to assess their content, usefulness and reliability.

“If you don't know history then you don't know anything.
You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree.”
Michael Crichton.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will have four written examinations which each make up 25% of the overall grade. The examinations will cover a range of skills such as the analysis and evaluation of historical sources and interpretations, demonstration of knowledge and understanding of the key characteristics and characteristics of the periods studied, and the ability to make judgments about the validity of different historical interpretations.

WHAT WILL I DO IN LESSONS?

History at GCSE covers a range of units, including a requirement to study 40% British history. The units of we will cover are as follows :

1. USA: A Nation of Contrasts 1910-1929 (Race Issues, Boom and Bust, Changes to Entertainment)
2. The development of Germany 1919-1991 (Germany's political development which includes the rise of Hitler and the division of Germany and the consequences of this. This course also looks at the social side of life in Germany throughout this period and how people were affected by their leaders.)
3. The Elizabethan Age 1558 – 1603 (The reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the Spanish Armada, The Golden Age of Culture).
4. Changes in health and medicine, c.500 to the present day (Developments in health and medicine from the dark ages to the present day).

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO CONSIDER?

An interest in History is vital. Historians should have enquiring minds and so the ability question the past is key. You should enjoy reading and be prepared to study large texts. You should aim to always be an active learner and take responsibility for revisiting your notes on a regular basis. Your history teacher will always put in 100%; we expect the same from our students.

WHAT DO STUDENTS THINK OF THE SUBJECT?

“History influences life today and that is why it is so important.”
“History helps you to gain a better understanding of other subjects.”