

A Level History

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 7042 – A Level

Why History?

If you have enjoyed GCSE History, the chances are that you will enjoy the subject at A Level, where you will have the opportunity to get to grips with topics and issues in much more depth, explore disagreements among historians (and fellow students) and reach your own conclusions. You will also develop and improve a variety of vital skills that will help you in other areas of study and in a wide range of careers. A Level History will teach you how to handle large amounts of information by being able to distinguish between what is important and relevant and what isn't. It will teach you how to think critically and how to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of people's ideas. Most importantly, perhaps, A Level History will help you to understand what motivates people and what they think and feel. It will help you to communicate ideas and arguments in a clear, concise and logical way and will help you to defend your point of view convincingly, both verbally and on paper.

Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements will apply and in addition students are expected to achieve at least a grade 6 in GCSE History.

Course Content

- Component 1
Breadth Study - The study of a significant historical development of a period of around 100 years and associated with interpretations.
'Industrialisation and the People: Britain c1783-1885' (Year 1: c1783-1832) You will have the opportunity to study change, continuity, cause and consequence during a time of major developments for Britain. You will examine how democracy, political organisations, the economy and society changed and developed. You will be asked to consider the role of individuals and groups and how they were affected by these developments.
- Component 2
Depth Study - The study in depth of a period of major historical change or development and associated primary evidence.
'France in Revolution 1774-1815' (Year 1: 1774-1795) In this period and due in no small measure to the inspiration of the Revolution in France, the modern western world was created. The Revolution swept away the Old Order with its ancient privileges and superstitions and hoped to replace it with liberty, equality and brotherhood. Yet the ideals became lost in the bloodshed of the Revolutionary Terror and France soon became a nation loathed and detested by the rest of Europe. It was Napoleon's role to reconstruct France and we will examine the character and actions of this extraordinary man who strove and almost succeeded, in exerting French influence over the whole of the European continent.
- Component 3
Historical Investigation - (Year 2) Candidates will be required to submit a historical enquiry based on a question that is set in the context of 100 years. This is to be confirmed later.

How does this learning differ from Pre-16 study?

To succeed at A Level History you need to be prepared to develop as an independent learner. In order to understand the new social, political and economic concepts associated with the course, you need to spend time quietly thinking about and reflecting upon, the details and arguments you have learned about. You also need to be prepared to read around the subject; increase your understanding of the periods covered by looking at biographies and the works of key historians. Finally you need to be prepared to enter into discussion work in class and, when uncertain about your understanding of a topic, be pro-active in approaching staff and asking for their help in increasing that understanding.

Prospects

History is useful for many careers because of the skills it teaches you. Employers value a qualification in History because they know that the skills you will have developed can be applied to all sorts of situations and tasks. History is also one of the more popular degree courses and some of the careers for which history can be a great asset are journalism, archaeologist, archivist, advertising & marketing, barrister, researcher, banking, solicitor, public relations, social work, teaching and publishing.

Contacts

Please contact Mrs. N. Slack, Head of History, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.