



Why Study History?

History is a thriving and very popular A Level choice and builds on what is a very successful and enjoyable GCSE course. History A Level encourages students to think critically about the key questions: Where are we now? Where have we come from? It develops the skills of analysis, evaluation and extended writing. It is a highly valued subject and grows in popularity with employers and universities alike.

Course Content and Assessment

The A Level course comprises 3 units:

Unit 1 – Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964 (40%)

This unit will allow students to develop an understanding of a period of great change and turmoil for Russia as it moved from the autocracy of the Romanovs to the dictatorship and totalitarian regimes of the Communists. As part of this course students will be asked to consider: the nature of political opposition and its causes; how political authority changed and adapted; economic development and change; how society and culture developed; the role of specific individuals in leading this change. How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Unit 2 – The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007 (40%)

This unit allows student to develop an in-depth understanding of key political, social and international changes which helped to make Britain the country which it is today. Students will explore a wide-range of concepts that includes government and opposition, social class, social division and cultural change. Through this course students will develop an understanding of, and analyse, the complex interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.



Unit 3 – Non-exam assessment (20%)

Building on the skills developed over the course of the A Level, this unit allows students to demonstrate their ability to write on a topic of interest. They will be expected to produce an essay of between 3,500-4,500 words in length. Students will need to be able to analyse primary and secondary source material to produce an evaluative response to a stimulating historical question.

Progression Routes

History allows students to develop their ability to critically analyse information, think logically and evidence decisions. For this reason, it is a good subject to take if you are considering entering the legal profession, the business world or the civil service, and many undergraduate historians even go on to become accountants.

Entry Requirements

Students should preferably have achieved at least a grade 5 at GCSE History in order to be able to meet the demands of the A Level course. Students who have not taken History GCSE should not be put off by the A Level, but a grade 5 in GCSE English would be required in these cases.