

# A LEVEL

# HISTORY

---

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7042

## Entry Requirements:

Average of grade 5 or higher across all GCSE exams including a minimum grade of 5 for English and maths.

Grade 6 in GCSE History

## Course Summary:

Everything happening around us today has been influenced by and is a result of what has happened in the past. Through studying History, we can examine key events in our collective past, learn how they shape the present and predict what could happen in the future. Studying History at A Level gives you the opportunity to examine and understand major historical events that have impacted our nation and the wider world over the last 500 years. Through the interrogation of sources and interpretations, you will have the unique opportunity to offer your own perspective on our collective history and justify how and why you have reached this viewpoint. At A Level, you will learn to grapple with current historical scholarship and truly 'do what Historians do' by engaging in current debate and historiography on the topics you are taught.

There are three overarching units of study:

### Breadth Study: Tudor England

1485 – 1603

Key questions include:

- Did a king really murder his nephews?
- Did Henry VII invent fake news?
- Why did so many people try to overthrow the Tudors?
- Was Elizabeth I really a virgin Queen?

Depth Study: The Cold War 1945 – 1991

Key questions include:

- How close did we really come to nuclear oblivion?
- Who won the space race?
- How did one big wall cause decades of heartache?
- Why did an 18 year old pilot cause chaos in 1987?

Coursework: American Civil

Rights 1865 - 1985 / your choice

Key questions include:

- Was Martin Luther King the 'poster boy' of the Civil Rights Movement?
- Did presidents really care about civil rights?
- How much of a difference did black activists actually make?

## Skills:

History is one of the Russell Group universities' 'facilitating' subjects. This means that it is highly regarded by Russell Group universities (universities recognised as being some of the best in the UK and the world) due to its rigour, academia and flexibility in showcasing a wide variety of transferable knowledge and skills. Amongst many others skills, in studying History, you will gain:

- *Strong Analytical Skills*: through interrogating sources, interpretations and scholarship.
- *Enhanced Verbal and Written Communication*: through debate, structured argument and essay writing.
- *Critical thinking*: through weighing the merit of historical evidence to ascertain its reliability, purpose and thus overall value.

History is an exceptionally flexible qualification and thus provides an excellent pathway to a wide variety of degrees and careers. When considering your pathway, keep in mind that essays are a method of assessment in most university courses, thus taking an essay-based subject at A Level is definitely recommended, regardless of your eventual career choice.

## Assessments:

*Component 1*: breadth study: written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A Level

*Component 2*: depth study: written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A Level

*Component 3*: coursework: 3500 – 4500 words, 20% of A Level

## This course is suitable for students who...

Hard working pupils who are organised and take independent learning and reading seriously. You need to have a genuine interest in History and a passion for argument, debate and interpretation. You also need to be a competent writer.

## Future careers:

Medicine, Law / Criminology / Psychology, Armed Forces, Teaching / Educational Studies, Journalism, Politics / Classics / Philosophy, Archaeology

---