

History

Introduction

Take History if the past fascinates you and you enjoy studying it. History combines exploration and discovery with the reward of successfully confronting and making sense of complex and challenging problems. The purpose of History is not just to collect facts but to search for an interpretation of the past. Through the study of evidence you will find patterns in, and meaning for, the events that have shaped our world. History informs the present and prepares for the future.

Content

A Level history is a linear qualification, with no modular exams. Two terminal examinations will be sat at the end of Y13 based on the content of the two year, linear course. The benefit of this is that students will sit their exams when they will be much more prepared and practiced in the skills needed for the examination. *We will be following the AQA syllabus, which is made up of three units:*

UNIT 1: The Tudors: England 1485-1603

- This is a study in breadth which explores the changes in government, foreign policy, economy, religion, society and culture over the Tudor period.
- 2 hour 30 minute exam at the end of Y13. One source based question and two essay questions from a choice of three.
- This unit is worth 40% of the A Level grade.
- The course covers the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary Tudor and Elizabeth I.

UNIT 2: Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918-1945

- This is a study in depth which explores political and ideological concepts and changes under both the Weimar and Nazi regimes.
- 2 hour 30 minute exam at the end of Y13. One source based question and two essay questions from a choice of three.
- This unit is worth 40% of the A Level grade.
- The course covers the establishment of the Weimar Republic after the end of the First World War, the 'Golden Age' of the Weimar Republic, the collapse of democracy and the rise of the Nazi Party, life in Nazi Germany and Hitler's dictatorship, the 'racial state' including the Holocaust and the impact of the Second World War.
- **Berlin Trip** - To complement the Unit 2 work on Germany we offer a bi-annual trip to Berlin. This visits some key sites connected to the topic such as the Reichstag, Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the 1936 Berlin

Olympic stadium amongst others. As well as it being beneficial to help consolidate learning on the Weimar and Nazi period, many students have found it a life-changing experience.

UNIT 3: The age of the Crusades, c1071-1204

- This is a coursework personal study covering the period of the Crusading Wars. The students will have an introductory unit of work delivered to them and then will be guided in how to pursue a personal research study to produce a 3000-3500 word essay on a question of their choice. They will use both primary and secondary evidence in their enquiry. It will be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- This unit is worth 20% of the A Level grade.
- The course covers society in the crusading period, the motivation to crusade, the power of the Pope, the role of individuals such as Richard the Lionheart and Saladin, and the first four crusades.

Course Requirement

6 or above in GCSE History (grades below this will require an interview with the Head of History, decisions will be taken on an individual basis)

Course Leader

Mr P Phelan



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