

History

Why choose to study History?

History is an exciting and challenging subject. It teaches us to use information effectively, to weigh up conflicting factors carefully and to be analytical and critical when considering information presented to you. If you choose to study A level history you will be taught to understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. You will gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.



Entrance Requirements

- A good command of English, both written and verbal is essential.
- An ability to think, to reason, and to develop and substantiate your own opinions.
- An interest in discussion.
- An ability to present arguments.
- You should enjoy researching information and investigating controversy.

Course Content & Learning Styles

You will have the opportunity to investigate the USA: the American dream: illusion versus reality, 1945 to 1980. You will examine the pressures for change, discovering the position of African Americans in the USA and the challenges they posed to racial segregation and the development of a national movement. You will study the civil rights movement and the responses of Kennedy and Johnson, to the demand for change, as well as the continuing struggle for civil rights up to 1980. The course then culminates in an investigation into the origins, and involvement of the USA in the Vietnam war, questioning involvement, strategies and its impact on the USA.

Alongside the USA unit, you will also study the Tudors in England 1485-1603, where you will examine the consolidation of the Tudor dynasty - Henry VII, investigating the consolidation of power as well as Henry VIII's aims and image. You will uncover the revolution within the church and state and the search for a religious settlement. You will also examine times of turmoil and triumph, assessing the impact of Edward VI's minority rule and government under Mary. The final part of the course follows Elizabeth – Gloriana and decline examining her government and court, Catholic plots and threats, as well as England's relationships with foreign powers.

The final unit will be an independent historical investigation which will contain an evaluation of primary sources. Here you will be given the chance to demonstrate an understanding of differing interpretations.

What skills will I develop?

- Among the many skills you will learn are those associated with:
- Discussion and debate.
- Report writing.
- Evaluation.
- Inference.
- Synthesis.
- The presentation of evidence.
- The use of documentary evidence.



Progression Opportunities

There are a number of career areas that expect history as a qualification e.g. archive work, archaeology, museum / art gallery work. However, there are far more career opportunities available where we consider history as a useful or exploitable subject, e.g. the law, branches of the civil service, banking, journalism, TV and radio broadcaster, market research, advertising, analyst, campaign worker, consultant, editor, foreign service officer, information specialist, intelligence agency, personnel assistants, public relations, teacher . . . the list can be almost endless.