
HISTORY

Exam Board: OCR



Aims of the Course

History should encourage students to:

- acquire and effectively communicate knowledge and understanding of the period of History studied.
- develop their understanding and expertise of historical skills, terms and concepts
- explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in British, European and World History.
- understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation of that evidence.
- develop their understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented by different historians at different times.

Types of Learning Experience:

A variety of methods are used to develop independent study habits. Students are expected to take a full part in group discussion of major issues and present research findings. Opportunities exist for day conferences where leading historians give their interpretations of the major events studied.

Link Subjects:

History can be combined with any of the A levels offered in the Sixth Form. A popular option has been to combine History with A level RE, English, Law, Economics, Sociology or Psychology. History however is increasingly being paired as an option to science based A levels.

Progressing to Higher Education:

A level History is widely regarded as one of the 'Gold Standard' A levels and is highly regarded by University Admissions tutors. Students with A level History go on to read a wide range of subjects ranging from Law, English and Languages to Theology, Economics and Psychology. A number of students each year decide to read History at a range of Universities including those requiring the highest standard of entry.

Careers:

History graduates have a good 'track record' of graduate employment ranging from journalism and the civil service to industry and commerce. A number of the most prominent positions in the public services and industry are occupied by History graduates.

Unit 1

British History Period Studies - Britain 1930-1997
(OCR Unit Y113)

Key Issues

Enquiry topic—Churchill 1930-1951

- Why was Winston Churchill out of office for so long? Why did he become Prime Minister in 1940? What were Churchill's views on international diplomacy?

Period Study—Britain 1951-1997

- Why were the Conservatives able to dominate politics from 1951-1964?
- Labour and Conservative governments 1964-1979.
- Why was there an end of 'consensus politics' under Margaret Thatcher?
- Britain's position in the world, 1951-1997.

Exam: 1h 30min 25% of A Level Grade

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 including English and Maths. GCSE History grade 5+ is preferred.





Unit 2

Non British Study - Crusades and the Crusader States 1095-1192 (OCR Unit Y203)

Key Issues

- The motives and features of the First Crusade including the role of Pope Urban II and the development of the idea of a Holy War.
- The Crusader states in the Twelfth Century including Jerusalem and Antioch; the role of the Knights Templar.
- The Second Crusade and reasons for its failure.
- Reasons for and key features of the Third Crusade, the development of the idea of Jihad, the role of Saladin.

Exam: 1hour 25% of A Level Grade

Unit 3

**Centre Based Coursework - Historical Interpretations and Investigations (OCR Unit Y100):
A question based on the Britain 1930-1997 unit**

The purpose of the unit is to enable candidates to assess different historical **interpretations** and to carry out an historical **investigation** of their own choosing.

Historical Interpretations

One piece of work, centre set, up to 4000 words long based on the examination of a number of historians' interpretations. The subject material will be based around one of the issues from the Britain unit studied in Year 12. Students display a range of skills in the critical assessment of different historical interpretations. The question must be based on a problem or issue about which there is a variety of views. Students display a range of historical knowledge and understanding.

Non-exam unit: 1 essay x 3-4000 words 20% of A Level Grade

Unit 4

**Historical Thematic Study - Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964
(OCR Unit Y318)**

Key Issues

This theme focuses on the nature of Russian government and its impact on the Russian people and society. The course investigates the similarities and differences between the autocratic rule of the tsars to 1917 and the subsequent Communist Regime. Content includes:

- Russian rulers
- The nature of government
- The impact of the dictatorial regimes on the economy and society of the Russian Empire and the USSR
- Impact of war and revolution on the development of Russian government

Exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes 40% of the A Level Grade

