

History

History A Level is an engaging and exciting course allowing students to ground their understanding of the present in the context of the past, reaching a much greater appreciation of contemporary issues.

The department aims to present the study of the past in a manner that is both enjoyable and academically stimulating, seeking to heighten awareness of the complex interrelation between social, political and economic factors in the decision-making process, allowing students to make sense of an increasingly complex and confusing world.



COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured around the following four modules:

Year 12:

Germany & West Germany 1918–89:

Topic includes key political changes experienced in a unified Germany, West Germany after the Second World War and the impact of these changes. This option contains a study in depth of historical interpretations of how far Hitler's foreign policy was responsible for World War Two.

Italy: The Rise and Fall of Fascism, 1911–46:

An in-depth study of Italy's descent into a fascist regime and the man behind this new ideology, Benito Mussolini. From World War One until his brutal execution during World War Two, this course covers one of the most dramatic and transformative time periods in Italy's History.

Year 13:

The British Experience of Warfare, 1790–1918:

This topic looks at the long-term changes of warfare and contextualises aspects in depth. Students explore the political, social and economic dimensions and their part in generating pressure for change.

Ireland: The Significance of the Easter Rising:

The purpose of coursework is to enable students to develop skills in the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of history and to understand the work of the historian.

SKILLS REQUIRED

GCSE Grade 7 or above is required in History. The course will appeal to students who have an active interest in the past, seek academic challenges and enjoy constructing and sustaining debate. History combines well with humanities subjects.

ASSESSMENT

All course content is examined at the end of the two-year course. The assessment consists of three written exams and one piece of coursework.

Paper 1:

Germany & West Germany, 1918–89. 2 hours 15 minutes. 30% of final marks.

Paper 2:

Italy: The Rise and Fall of Fascism, 1911–46. 1 hour 30 minutes. 20% of final marks.

Paper 3:

The British Experience of Warfare, 1790–1918. 2 hours 15 minutes.

Coursework:

Essay. Ireland: The Significance of the Easter Rising. 3,000–4,000 words. 20% of final marks.

ENRICHMENT

The department runs a wealth of co-curricular clubs such as the Politics Club which is popular with Sixth Formers, holding lively debates, researching breaking news and running the School mock elections. International trips to Berlin, Rome and Belgium are a highlight of the calendar.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

The skills of critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation learnt through A Level History will be attractive to all universities. When applying for any degree course, a background in History will be recognised as an indication of academic rigour and achievement. Students can take advantage of the opportunity to continue studying the subject they enjoy or combine it with a multi-disciplined degree which can lead to careers in law, the civil service, management and journalism.



EXAM BOARD

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