

Academic Requirements

Preferably grade B or better at GCSE, but it is possible for students with good analytical and writing skills to embark on the course without a GCSE background. The course acts as a natural progression from GCSE, and supports development to further study and a wide range of careers.

Course Specification

The course we are likely to follow is Edexcel AS/A level specification. This entails four units including one coursework unit and three exams. This mix means you can use a variety of skills and that you are not solely dependent on end of unit exams: this reduces the uncertainty of unpredictable exam questions. The topics covered for each of these modules are quite flexible and will vary according to who is teaching the material. The AS consists of Units 1 and 2 only whereas the A level means adding on Units 3 and 4: therefore AS is worth 50% of the overall assessment for a student following the course through to A level.

At present the emphasis is on modern history and there is a requirement for one unit out of the four to be British History. Therefore the course consists of:

Unit 1: Historical Themes in Breadth

The Expansion and Challenge of Nationalism

The Collapse of the Liberal State and the Triumph of Fascism in Italy, 1896-1943 and From Second Reich to Third Reich (Nazi) Germany 1918-1945.

Unit 2: British History Depth Studies

Britain in the Later 20th Century: Responding to Change

British Political History, 1945-90: Consensus and Conflict

Unit 3: Depth Studies and Associated Historical Controversies

War and Peace: 20th Century International Relations

A Divided World: Superpower Relations, 1944-1990 (Cold War)

Unit 4: Historical Enquiry [Coursework]

Russia to Soviet Union 1856-1964

There is usually the opportunity to attend Sixth Form conferences related to these topics.

Why History?

The success rate for students has been high. It is a traditional subject, highly respected on university and job applications, which involves research, analysis, evaluation and the coherent expression of ideas. These skills are valued in many jobs from journalism, media research, marketing and personnel management to the professions such as law and accountancy. The study of History helps to explain our own world and helps us to understand that most mysterious of beings, humans.

A Student's Perspective

'History looks at political, moral and social issues which are fascinating to study and discuss. It develops priceless skills of analysis and critical thinking. In looking into the past, we are better able to understand the present.'