

KS4 Curriculum – History

At KS4 students have 3 lessons for History a week. We have planned our time so there is room for revision before the actual GCSEs. We regularly complete exam questions so the students can practise their structures, while also consolidating course content. We have three separate classes for each year of KS4.

We use the AQA exam board and have chosen units that we feel are the best for engaging our students while playing to the strengths of each teachers subject knowledge.

The GCSE History content comprises the following elements:

- one period study
- one thematic study
- one wider world depth study
- one British depth study including the historic environment.

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Period studies

1B Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

This period study focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of democracy and dictatorship – the development and collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism. Students will study the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of these two developments and the role ideas played in influencing change. They will also look at the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and the impact the developments had on them.

Section B: Wider world depth studies

Conflict and tension, 1918–1939

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different individuals and states including the Great Powers. It looks at concepts such as national self-determination, ideas of internationalism and the challenges of revising the peace settlement. It focuses on the causes of the Second World War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the issues which caused it. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change, as well as how they were affected by and influenced international relations.

Paper 2: Shaping the nation - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Thematic studies

2B Britain: Power and the people: c1170 to the present day

This thematic study will enable students to gain an understanding of the development of the relationship between the citizen and the state in Britain over a long period of time. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of protest to that relationship. By charting the journey from feudalism and serfdom to democracy and equality, it reveals how, in different periods, the state responds to challenges to its authority and their impact. It allows students to construct an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the citizen. Students will have the opportunity to see how ideas, events or developments in the wider world affected the course of Britain's political development and will promote the idea that ideas of authority, challenge and rights did not develop in isolation, but these developments should be seen in terms of how they affected Britain and British people.

Students will study the importance of the following factors:

- war
- religion
- chance
- government
- communication
- the economy
- ideas such as equality, democracy, representation
- the role of the individual in encouraging or inhibiting change

Section B: British depth studies including the historic environment

Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

This option allows students to study in depth a specified period, the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and arising contemporary and historical controversies

Part of this course is the study of an historic environment. For the current year 11 that site is Hardwick Hall, the current year 10 it is The Globe Theatre in London and for the current year 9 it is the site of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in the English Channel.