

HISTORY



Why study History?

“Surely, History is just about the past!”

History most certainly is about the past BUT there's a LOT more to it than that!!

History is about real people dealing with real situations

History is about trying to understand what makes people tick

History is about being uncertain when dealing with people and situations

History is about being able to explain people and situations to others

History is about understanding information, wherever it comes from, whether from a speech, news media or the internet, and picking out from it what may be genuine or misleading

History is about making your own judgements, and supporting them

History is about successfully communicating these judgements to others

It might get you a job. Think of all the jobs which require you to understand people and their motives, to explain them and work with them: lawyers, personnel officers, managers of all sorts, teachers, social workers, advertisers, broadcasters, reporters and publishers.

History teaches you to communicate your views, assess others' views and opinions and understand more effectively the world you live in. History can help you live your life. After all, you're going to live with people, ideas and language, rather than test-tubes, spreadsheets or equations, aren't you?

Why will I enjoy it?

You will enjoy History GCSE because it is all about the most interesting things in the world – PEOPLE!

History GCSE will build upon some of the same content and skills that you are studying and developing in Year 9 plus many more exciting events. Having studied GCSE History you will be able to say the following things about yourself, very positively and confidently:

- I can understand how people tick, what motivates them, what they think and feel;
- I am able to gather and read different kinds of information;
- I am able to look carefully at this information and can check it for bias or propaganda;
- I can read maps, graphs and other diagrams;
- I am able to communicate clearly and have learned to express myself verbally on paper.

Key Content for GCSE History (9-1)

The new GCSE is made up of three units, all of which are examined units.

Paper 1: Thematic Study and the historic environment

Written examination- 1 hour and 15 minutes (30% of qualification)

Crime and punishment through time, c1000–present and the associated historic environment: 'Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city'. Includes:

- Gunpowder Plot
- Witch Trials
- Highwaymen and smugglers
- Robert Peel and the Police force
- Derek Bentley and the abolition of the death penalty
- Jack the Ripper, Policing and Whitechapel

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study

Written examination – 1 hour and 45 minutes (40% of the qualification)

Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 Includes:

- The challenge of religion
- The problem of Mary Queen of Scots
- Plots and revolts against Elizabeth
- The Armada

Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991 Includes:

- The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan
- Hungarian Uprising
- The Cuban Missile Crisis
- Gorbachev and the collapse of the Soviet Union

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study

Written examination – 1 hour and 20 minutes (30% of qualification)

Weimar and Nazi Germany Includes:

- The Weimar Republic and the Golden Years
- The Rise of Hitler – economic depression and propaganda
- Control and dictatorship – The Reichstag Fire and the Night of the Long Knives
- Life in Nazi Germany – Women, the young and the Holocaust

EXAMINATION BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:	Paper 1:	30%
	(Crime and Punishment)	
	Paper 2:	40%
	(Elizabeth 1 and the Cold War)	
	Paper 3:	30%
	(Germany 1918-1939)	

What could I do next with a GCSE in History?

A good grade at GCSE will help you move on to any AS, A level, Vocational A level or BTEC National course. If you enjoy your History GCSE, you might want to continue with History at A level or study a related area such as Sociology, Politics, Law or Economics.

History is useful for work. Here is a list of just some of the occupations and careers for which the skills referred to above are very useful:

Accountancy, administration, advertising, archaeology, building and architecture, the civil service, communications, conservation, heraldry, heritage management, journalism, law, leisure and tourism, library work, museum work, personnel, marketing, the police force, publishing, teaching and many more!

History can give you the skills employers want, whatever the job you have in mind.

What other skills might I develop?

History GCSE builds upon and enhances a wide range of 'transferable' skills you have already been developing in your studies. These skills will help you progress in many of your other subjects at GCSE and beyond, and they are also skills highly valued by a wide variety of employers so they will be useful to you in the world of work.

CASE STUDY

Gwyneth Year 11

I chose GCSE History because I have always had an interest in the subject and was keen to widen my knowledge.

My favourite part of the course has definitely been Weimar and Nazi Germany; you learn about the political side of this time as well as the humanitarian side.

I also really enjoyed learning about the Cold War as it's fairly recent history. It enabled me to grow my knowledge about recent laws and leaders.

In the future I would like to be a human rights lawyer. I think history will help because it's a subject that studies people and the effects of political decisions upon society.

I would advise Year 9 to take this course if they are interested in History and have a passion for writing and debating.



For further information contact: Miss Watson