

# GCSE History – Y9 Transition

History one of the most important, challenging and fascinating of all subjects, and it is this that makes it such a popular subject amongst Durham Johnston's students. Those who choose to study History at GCSE gain the opportunity to investigate the past in depth, developing their own viewpoints and interpretations whilst also engaging in challenging and stimulating debate. The teaching staff view ourselves as historians as well as teachers: we find ways for our pupils to experience the same fascination with the past that we all share, teaching a rigorous academic subject in innovative and effective ways. The department has an excellent track record of academic success, with many students exceeding expectations year-on-year. That History is an English Baccalaureate subject demonstrates the rigour and prestige associated with History, serving as a further incentive for students to study the subject.

We will teach you how to analyse and evaluate the wide range of events you study and understand the trends and theories that help us to make sense of the past. We will also provide you with the range of tools and techniques that you will need to thrive as a historian at GCSE and beyond.

<p><b>Preparation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Keep working hard in lessons.</b> We have chosen the topics that we teach at GCSE to deepen and strengthen the work of our historians in Year 9. Many of the issues that we are going to be studying for the remainder of the year- especially the First World War, the rise of the Nazis and the Holocaust- are not only important subjects for everyone to know about, but will also give you a good foundation for when we study these topics in further depth next year.</li> <li>✓ <b>Develop your wider understanding.</b> There is a wealth of historical material out there for students to engage with in a wide variety of ways. There is a vast array of information at your fingertips- whether through reading popular history books, magazines devoted to history, or watching documentaries and films. The skills that we practice when studying history- particularly analysis and evaluation- are made much easier when you have a wider and deeper understanding of the period. The bigger your general knowledge of the past, the easier it is to add new information in. Speak to your teachers if you're not sure where to start and we will be able to make numerous recommendations.</li> <li>✓ <b>Keep practising your writing.</b> The study of History requires a lot of reading and writing! We will continue to use the same skills and techniques that you are currently using in your lessons as you continue your journey as historians, so use the remaining time in year nine to hone these skills in preparation for next year.</li> <li>✓ <b>Read, read, read!</b> As with above, the more you read, the easier it will become to express your ideas. Anything that's been written and edited will help you, regardless of whether it's about history or not: newspapers, magazines, fiction, non-fiction... It's all good!</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Overview of course</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Exam Board:</b> AQA</li> <li>✓ <b>External exams:</b> Two exams (both two hours long, and each worth 84 marks)</li> <li>✓ <b>Content:</b> Paper One (Conflict and Tension: the First World War and Democracy and Dictatorship: Germany c.1890-1945); Paper Two (Elizabethan England, Power and the People)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Short term focus: Term 1</b></p>	<p>In the September of Y10 we start with our study of <b>Elizabethan England</b>. This module is an excellent proving ground for the historical skills that you will be developing and using throughout the entire course. Any wider background reading / viewing about Tudor England will give you a head start when the course begins.</p>	
<p><b>Careers &amp; Suitability</b></p>	<p><b>This course would suit you if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are fascinated by people, and how and why they behave the way they do;</li> <li>You like the challenge of having to think hard about how to make sense of lots of information;</li> <li>You like to build arguments and learn how to make them convincingly;</li> <li>You want to develop your ability to think and write analytically.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Careers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journalism</li> <li>Teaching</li> <li>Lawyer</li> <li>Creative Industries</li> <li>Heritage Sector</li> <li>Policing</li> </ul>