

HISTORY

AT ADVANCED LEVEL (A/S AND A2)

Our Course: OCR Specification

Summary of Subject Content

The new History A Level offers the chance to explore a wide range of topics in British, European and American History. Students who take this subject acquire a good level of knowledge as well as transferable skills that will be useful to any degree course. Coursework is offered in Year 13 and the topics will be set by the board.

First Year

AS: Unit 1 : Study Topic 5 : Foreign and Imperial Policies 1945-90

Unit 2 : Historical Enquiries - Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1933-63

Second Year

A2: Unit 3 : Coursework

This involves a source exercise based on the following topic:

- Napoleon 1, 1795-1815

There is also an extended essay which can be based on any related topic.

Unit 4 : Historical Themes - Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

This includes Native American and African American Rights. The development of workers' and workers' rights in this period are also covered.

Aptitudes, skills or qualities you will need:-

We are looking for candidates who have an interest in the subject. It does not matter if they have studied the topic at GCSE. If you are inquisitive about the society in which you live, this is the subject for you.

History is about people – why they did what they did, what effects they had, and how and why they might have been economical with the truth when they recorded their experiences. Study History and you will see what led people to do what they did – why people actually voted for Hitler, for example.

Value of the subject for higher education and future careers:-

History is a good general qualification that shows that you can write at some length, put together arguments for more than one course of action and that you can then come to a conclusion. It also shows that you never take evidence at face value. So if you are thinking about a career in law or journalism – this could be a subject for you. If you are inclining towards the sciences, a subject like History is a good balance to maintain your writing skills. If you are undecided about your future, then History is a wide ranging subject that still enables you to keep your options open – the present Head of MI5 has a History degree for example, as does the creator of Ali G!