



Time, Equipment and Expenses:

It would be expected that GCSE History students spend between 30-60 minutes on home learning tasks between each timetabled lesson.

Sometimes these tasks will be specific, directed work - completing work from class or preparing for a lesson. At other times there will be a more extensive, on going research-based project to focus on.

As students move through Year 10 and 11 on going consolidation and revision is vital. Students are provided with a textbook for the course. They may either keep their notes in a file that they provide, or the department will provide an exercise book.

There will be an optional residential trip to Berlin the total cost of which will be in the region of £475.

For further information, please speak to Mr Simpson, Head of History or your History Teacher.

GCSE HISTORY (Code: Hi)

Exam Board: AQA

Why study History?

History is a dynamic, engaging and exciting subject to study. At its heart, history is about understanding people: the decisions they took, the problems they faced, the challenges they overcame. Anyone who is interested in people should be interested in history! Beyond this, the GCSE in History gives students a better ability to understand the world in which we live today. Furthermore, the study of history develops vital skills such as: the ability to evaluate and argue; to communicate effectively; and to make informed, critical judgements based on the evidence. All of these skills are transferable and in demand in the complex, modern world.

The new GCSE syllabus offers a fascinating mixture of periods, cultures and questions. Students will study two units. One focuses on understanding the modern world and will look in detail at key aspects of European and world history in the 20th century. The other unit focuses on the History of the UK. Students will complete a study of change over time, exploring the way in which Britain has engaged with the world, and how British identity has been forged, through patterns of invasion, Empire and migration. Lessons are engaging and stimulating: the department takes full advantage of the three years dedicated to the course to offer students the chance to undertake exciting projects such as producing their own newspapers and analysing films about the topics studied!

Year 9

In Year 9 students will study aspects of American history in the 1920s and 1930s as well as exploring the nature of the reign of Edward I, 1272-1307. These topics, whilst GCSE options on the AQA paper, will be taught so as to prepare students for the wide-ranging chronological and intellectual demands of the GCSE. In the summer term of Year 9 students will commence their study of the GCSE syllabus proper with an investigation into the Cold War from 1945-1972.

Year 10

In Year 10 students will focus on two further GCSE examination topics. The first of these is an investigation into Germany's history from 1890-1945. The nature of German democracy, the impact of the First World War and the creation of the Weimar Republic will all be considered. The decline of Germany's democratic government and the rise to power of Hitler and the Nazi party will also be explored in detail. The second Year 10 topic sees students look back to the sixteenth century to learn about Elizabethan England. The challenges of the final 35 years of Elizabeth's reign will be under examination, including the Armada and religious change. This will be fascinating in its own right but will also provide a fantastic foundation for A level History study of the Stuart century that followed Elizabeth's death in 1603. A residential trip to Berlin in support of the Germany and Cold War elements of the course will be offered in the May half term holiday of Year 10.

Year 11

In Year 11 students will complete their final GCSE topic, an exploration of the way in which invasions, migration and Empire have created a British identity over the course of 1000 years. The Saxon and Norman invasions, the growth of Empire and the legacy of decolonisation will all be studied.

