

HISTORY (Course Code Hi)

Head of Department: Mr P D Mead BA (Hons)

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 7 at History GCSE

Introduction

The study of History at A level is challenging, exciting and rewarding. The course offered by the History and Politics department has two key aims: to give both a broader and deeper understanding of key aspects of global history; and to develop skills of critical analysis, evaluation and argument that are highly regarded by universities and employers alike.

The Course

The department has put together a course that builds on the skills and knowledge gained at GCSE, whilst engaging and stretching from the first lesson. The course is centred around the examination of two contrasting periods of rebellion and civil war; one in Britain in the seventeenth century and the other in the United States in the mid nineteenth century. These two units will be taught in parallel from the start of Year 12.

The British history element of the course is fulfilled by a study of the **Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702**. This period saw many of the foundations of the modern state laid down, most notably as a result of the civil wars of the 1640s and 1650s. Students will examine the contrasting reigns of the Stuart monarchs from James I & VI to William and Mary. The significance of religion and ideology will be considered with a view to understanding how the very concept of monarchy changed across the century.

A contrasting study in depth looks at issues of opposition, rebellion and ideology from an American perspective. Through the examination of **America: a Nation Divided c.1845-77** students will gain an understanding of the key causes and outcomes of the American Civil War. The culture and politics of the United States prior to the war, particularly concerning the 'peculiar institution of slavery', will be explored in detail, as will the various ways in which this period has been interpreted and discussed.

Across the full A level course students also complete a piece of coursework. Students will be offered the chance to make a choice of topic from the department's wide range of specialisms. This takes the form of an extended essay examining a question agreed between student and tutor. It is a fantastic opportunity to undertake independent study into a period of history that fascinates you.

The Study of History

The course as a whole demands that students read widely and learn to distinguish between and evaluate differing historical interpretations. This remains an unashamedly intellectual subject. The skills that are developed through the study of History at A Level are highly valued. The subject combines well with the study of Government and Politics, Geography, English Literature and Modern Foreign Languages. However, many scientists find that History's analytical nature adds valued breadth to their studies.

The History department organises regular visits to museums and exhibitions of interest as well as inviting leading professional historians to the school for guest lectures. Successful study visits have been run to Washington DC and New York every October since 2012 and we plan to run the trip again in October 2018.

University and Careers

History is a popular subject in the sixth form and many of our students decide to continue their study of the subject at university. The department has an excellent track record of helping students to achieve top grades and to achieve places at leading universities including Oxford and Cambridge. The study of History not only enables one to make better sense of the world in which we live but the skills it fosters are applicable in a wide range of careers: historians are to be found in the top levels of politics, business, media and entertainment.

(Nov 2018)