



HISTORY

A Level Specification: EDEXCEL History (www.edexcel.com)

Examination / Assessment details:

Route E: Communist states in the 20 th Century	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1: Russia, 1917 - 91: From Lenin to Yeltsin (Breadth Study)	2 hours 15 minutes. 60 marks	30%
Paper 2: Mao's China, 1949 - 76 (Depth Study)	1 hour 30 minutes. 40 marks	20%
Paper 3: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399 - 1509	2 hours 15 minutes. 60 marks	30%
Coursework: Reasons for the outcome of the American Civil War	Completed by Christmas of Year 13. 40 marks	20%

COURSE AIMS:

The course seeks to nurture and develop students' interest in History by exposing them to a range of highly engaging topics spanning a broad time period. These topics are threaded together by pivotal themes such as conflict, power and ideas, which students will explore in depth as they move through the course. Alongside this, students will engage with the process of producing History. They will spend time analysing and evaluating a range of sources and interpretations to further their knowledge of how Historians construct narratives that explain the past, and they will learn how to clearly and coherently communicate their own ideas using historical language.

QUALIFICATIONS, QUALITIES AND DESIRABLE EXPERIENCE:

The course will appeal to students who are passionate about the past and wish to explore and understand it through enquiry-based learning. The course will also appeal to students who enjoy discussion and wish to develop their ability to argue their own view with clarity and precision, drawing on analysis of sources and interpretations. History is a versatile discipline which blends well with a range of other A-Level subjects and is highly regarded for the way in which it develops critical thinking skills and an ability to communicate effectively.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

The course is delivered using a range of methods, including discussion and role play alongside independent reading and note taking. Students are taught how to access academic texts and take notes efficiently to help build their understanding outside of lessons. Sources and interpretations are also analysed to acquaint students with the process of enquiry-based learning and to teach them how narratives of the past are constructed. Students are well supported as they learn to write effective essays which communicate their ideas and understanding.

HOMEWORK

Students are expected to undertake about two to three hours of structured home learning per week during Year 12, including pre-reading tasks and assessment preparation. Students are also expected to develop their independent study skills by carrying out wider reading to expand their knowledge and consolidate their understanding.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Students combine History with a wide range of subjects, including Languages, the Sciences and Maths. Students mostly choose History because they enjoy it, but it naturally complements English, Geography and Politics.

TRIPS & VISITS

Students may have the opportunity to take part in History conferences in London during the course. The Department is hoping to reinstate a trip to Washington DC to run during the Easter Holiday of alternate years.

MATERIALS

Basic textbooks can be purchased through school, and a good stock of background books is available in the school and city libraries, but students do sometimes buy their own copies of particularly useful books.