

History AS and A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Component 1: The Tudors: England 1485-1603

Year 12 (AS and A-Level) 1485-1547

This course looks at the establishment of the Tudor dynasty under Henry VII and his consolidation of power against the threat of over mighty noblemen and 'pretenders' to the throne. During the year we study the role of government, Henry's domestic policies as well as his foreign policy. The course then goes on to examine his son's reign including the establishment of Royal Supremacy, the Dissolution of the monasteries and the huge impact religious changes had on society. Throughout the year there is a particular emphasis on society, the economy and religion encompassing the impact of the Renaissance ideas on Tudor England.

Year 13 (A-Level) 1547-1603

Building upon Year 12 content, the A level course begins with a focus on the turbulent reigns of Edward VI and Mary I including the social impact of immense religious change, problems of royal authority and succession. We then look at the reign of Elizabeth I, exploring the immense social, economic and religious changes of the period including exploration and the 'Golden Age' of art and literature.

Component 2: Depth Study, Russia 1917-53

Year 12 (AS and A-Level) 1917-1928

The dramatic impact of communist rule in Russia following the revolution of 1917 is studied in this popular unit. We begin by assessing the causes of the revolution, the dramatic events of 1917 and then the Bolshevik seizure of power. This is followed by an examination of Lenin's rule of Russia (including the Russian Civil War) and the economic and social, as well as the political transformations that Communism brought. Finally we delve into Stalin's rise to power, as a precursor to the Year 13 study.

Year 13 (A Level) 1917-1953

Building on Year 12 content we will be studying the devastating yet dramatic period of Stalin's rule of Russia. His mass industrialisation, agricultural collectivisation and infamous purges and ruthless control form the majority of the content. We see how this manifested itself during the Great Patriotic Struggle whilst also looking at the cultural and social history of this time period.

Component 3: Historical Investigation (NEA) Germany 1871-1991

Year 13 (A Level)

This piece of coursework combines all of the skills learnt in the other two components and really will develop students, to ensure they are more than ready for university level work. We offer students a range of possible titles from this topic (as well as offering the most keen some scope for their own choice) and guide them through their study to produce a 3000-3500 word essay looking at change and continuity, historical interpretations and handling evidence. Our bi-annual trip to Berlin complements this well.

Assessment:

AS Level (Summer Year 12):

- 1.5 hour written examination on Component 1: One essay and one interpretation question (50% of the AS Level)
- 1.5 hour written examination on Component 2: One essay and one source question (50% of the AS Level)

A Level (Summer Year 13):

- 2.5 hour written examination on Component 1: Two essays and one interpretation question (40% of the A Level)
- 2.5 hour written examination on Component 2: Two essays and one source question (40% of the A Level)
- Coursework Independent Essay: 3000-3500 words: Internally assessed; exam board moderated (20% of the A Level)

Careers and Study Progression:

A Level History is a highly regarded academic subject and is appreciated by a wide range of employers and universities. Its application suits careers in journalism, law, politics, education, civil service or roles more directly relating to the past such as museum curation and marketing, archive management, archaeology, or research.

