

OPTIONS COURSE

HISTORY (GCSE)

ACCREDITING AUTHORITY | EDEXCEL

QUALIFICATION

GCSE in History

FACULTY

HUMANITIES

STAFF CONTACT

Mr D. Raynor, Mr N. Flynn

WHAT QUALITIES & SKILLS DO I NEED?

History will be a great option for you if you have an interest in historical events and enjoy evaluating scenarios and making decisions. Above all you need to be enthusiastic, well motivated and be able to work independently. Throughout the History GCSE, you will learn to remember and use historical facts; to make judgements and think critically, to understand different viewpoints on historical events; and to use and evaluate historical evidence. The skills developed at History GCSE are valued by many employers and can lead to careers in Business, Law, Journalism, Police, Civil Service, Teaching and many others.

COURSE FOLLOWED

[Edexcel GCSE History F5 combination](#)

WHAT WILL I DO ON THE COURSE?

Students will study four units.

Paper 1 Medicine in Britain 1250–present, with the British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches: How humans have fought illness from the Medieval period to the 21st Century (with reference to the ancient world), focussing on key areas in Surgery and Anatomy, Public Health and Disease and Infection. This paper is worth 30% of the overall qualification.

Paper 2 Period study and British depth study:

Period Study:

The American West, c1835–c1895. Settlement, development and conflict.

British Depth Study: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88. This paper, covering both topics, is worth 40% of the overall qualification.

Paper 3 Germany 1919–1939: How Hitler managed to gain power in Germany, the creation of the dictatorship and evaluating the impact of Nazi rule in German Society. This paper is worth 30% of the overall qualification.

HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANISED & ASSESSED?

You will complete three examination papers as shown above:

Paper One: 1 hour 15 minutes.

Paper Two: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper Three: 1 hour 20 minutes.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MUCH COURSEWORK IS THERE?

Coursework is no longer a part of the course; all assessments are externally examined.

WHEN ARE THE EXAMS?

All three exams are in the summer of Y11.

HOW MUCH HOMEWORK WILL I GET?

Homework is set once a week although some longer pieces will be given over a two week period. These will often be written pieces. Sometimes they will be research or revision tasks.

IS THERE MUCH WRITING?

There is! Like English, History is a subject that needs you to enjoy reading. You also need to want to develop your writing skills. You should see this as a positive – as well as learning the history you will also be improving your literacy skills. So it can also help you in other subjects like English. Remember, most jobs you do will want you at some time to write reports or contact customers. Employers will be looking for people with well-developed writing skills.

WILL I BE GOOD ENOUGH TO DO HISTORY?

Do you enjoy it? If the answer is yes then you will be good enough. What we ask is that you try and give of your best. Your teachers are really interested in history and will try and communicate that to you. They will do all they can to help you to do well if you are putting the effort in.

IS HISTORY GCSE INTERESTING?

Well, your History teacher will reply with a resounding 'Yes!' What could be more interesting than learning how medicine changed from people blaming the planets for their ailments, through to the latest DNA advances? Surely you need to know something about possibly the most important woman in the history of England, Elizabeth I? And the terrible history of Germany between 1918-39, leading to the terrible rule of the Nazis, is always fascinating – a dire warning from the past about what happens if we do not pay attention to who is leading us. We would have no understanding of modern USA without looking at their settlement and development; and that includes cowboys! More simply, the topics are interesting in themselves – if you bring the willingness to throw yourself into them you will find them fascinating.

BUT IS HISTORY ANY PRACTICAL USE AS A QUALIFICATION?

Yes. A qualification in GCSE History says a lot about you – you have the ability to memorise a strong body of knowledge, you can organise your thoughts into well-constructed paragraphs and essays, you can express a point of view and back up your views based on firm evidence, you can analyse evidence detecting its purpose and giving reasons why it might be reliable or not. These high level reasoning skills are vital in so many areas of employment – the law, business, teaching, banking etc. History is not just for people who want to be archaeologists!

