

# History

# History

Exam board: OCR

Specification no: H505 (A Level)

**This is a two year linear A level course** - The units in the table below show the A-Level content, including the weightings for each unit and assessment. There is an option for AS Level study, if students wish to leave the subject but the feel that they can achieve a strong grade. The requirements for this will be referred to later in the flyer.

	Unit One	Unit Two	Unit Three	Unit Four
	British Period Study and Enquiry	Non-British Period Study	Non-Examined Assessment Coursework Unit.	Historical Themes Synoptic and Depth Study
Content	Henry VII to Mary I, 1485-1558	African Kingdoms 1400-1800	The Cold War, 1941-56	Russia and its Rulers, 1855-1964
Weighting	25%	15%	20%	40%
Assessment	1 hour and 30 minutes exam paper.	1 hour exam paper	1x 4000 word essays using extensive contemporary source material	2 hour and 30 minutes exam paper

## Course Intent:

We have chosen our curriculum to give a broader range of global historical understanding, enabling us to **challenge the narratives** that are often simplistic and based on a lack of investigation. As well as developing the skills of critical analysis and academic essay writing, we want students of history to leave the course with a greater understanding of the diverse and interlinked world history. You can see our video explanation of the course at :

<https://www.loom.com/share/b6c4fcdf7a2d4e4380642f8a52a46d0b>

The password for the video is SMRTHistory.



## Course Delivery:

A Level History involves a substantial amount of independent learning. In lessons it is taught through a variety of learning styles including discussions, source analysis, reading texts and group work. The main focus is on developing students' historical skills especially their essay writing and ability to evaluate sources. Students must be prepared to read widely around the subject. Homework will include appropriate reading and structured written tasks, especially essays and answering questions about sources.

## Course Content:

Some unit assessments test your knowledge predominantly and some test your ability to evaluate and analyse critical source material.

### Unit 1 : Henry VII to Mary I (Y12)

This unit will cover some of the key issues of one of the defining eras of British history. How did the beginning of the Tudor dynasty mark a new era? What were Henry VIII's monumental decisions that managed to change the face of Britain? Were they driven by his love-life or by greed? What drove people to rebel against Tudor monarchs? Why is Mary Tudor known as 'Bloody Mary'? The examination will include an knowledge based essay and critical source evaluation.

### Unit 2 : African Kingdoms 1400-1800 (Y12)

This is an exciting new unit that enables us to investigate Africa prior to European interference. Within the unit we will uncover the rich and sophisticated political, societal and economic systems developed in West Africa, often through artistic visual representation. The unit investigates four case studies, the Empire of Songhai, the The Kingdom and Empires of Oyo and Dahomey, the Kingdom of Benin and finally, the Kingdom of Kongo. The examination will include a short answer question on significance and an essay.

### Unit 3: Russia and its Rulers (Y12/Y13)

A study of the last Tsars and the Communist Commissars of Russia. This unit explores the changes and the continuities of Russian history from 1855-1964. Students start to unravel the mysteries of the Russia that lurched dramatically and bloodily from being under the

yoke of one of the world's most famous and most wealthy ruling families- the Romanovs, to a different kind of despotism under the dictatorship of Stalin. However we will also challenge the idea that Russian leadership was purely based on terror, as we investigate some of the experimentation that leaders used to maintain such a diverse nation. Students will also analyse the opinions of historians and form their own in depth study. The examination will consist of a critical evaluation of historical interpretations and two essays.

### Unit 4: The Cold War coursework (Y13)

This unit works in conjunction with the Russian rulers unit, overlapping in the later analyses of Stalin and Khrushchev. Whilst key focuses are taught initially, this unit gives students an opportunity to build their own essay analysing a key element of this, providing them with academic ownership of a historical subject.

## H105 (AS Level)

If students wish to leave the subject in Year 12 and feel that they can achieve a good grade in an AS examination, they are able to complete the AS-Level. This decision should not be taken lightly as it would include the **Tudors** unit of study covered by Year 12 teaching, however as African Kingdoms is not offered at this level students would be required to **self-teach** the '**Cold War in Europe 1941-1995**' unit. This will be fully resourced using of moodle virtual learning environment, and guidance provided.

	Unit One	Unit Two
	British Period Study and Enquiry	Non-British Period Study
Content	Henry VII to Mary I, 1485-1558	The Cold War in Europe 1941-1995
Weighting	25%	15%
Assessment	1 hour and 30 minutes exam paper.	1 hour and 30 minutes exam paper



### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### What are the entry requirements?

If the subject is taken at GCSE it should be passed at 5 or above and at least one English/Humanities/Social Science subject should be passed with a 6.

#### What skills & personal qualities required / developed by course?

Students will need to enjoy reading and thinking for themselves. They will develop the skill to critically evaluate sources of information, as well as the ability to analyse information and reach substantiated conclusions. You will need to develop the skills to be able to produce a highly analytical and well-structured argument, both orally and on paper- skills which will be invaluable in future life.

#### What resources are available?

All students will be issued with a textbook or e-book for each unit and there are also many resources available in the library. Our Virtual Learning Environment moodle has been developed to aid all aspects of learning and revision for the A-Level course.

#### What visits and other opportunities are available?

Where possible we organise a visit to Hampton Court to supplement the Tudor unit and are investigating opportunities to support other units. We are also very keen to encourage historians to join in societies to challenge narratives on even wider world history. In Year 13 students are encouraged to attend university-style lectures on the aspects of their course given by eminent historians and to use the facilities of local universities in researching their coursework.

#### Where can History lead me to in further education and careers?

The beauty of History is that it closes no doors, but keeps many open. The skills of critical evaluation and academic writing are coveted by universities, and strong grade in the subject is useful in application to any degree course. History students often, but not exclusively, move into areas of law, civil service, politics, international affairs and journalism due to their academic skills and depth of world knowledge.

#### Recommended reading / websites:

Journals: *History Today*, *The Journal of Modern History*, *European History Quarterly*, *History Review*

Websites: <https://africankingdoms.co.uk/>, <https://www.history.org.uk/> (The Historical Association).

For further information: Miss F Barnes, Head of History.



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