

## History GCSE (Optional)

Board: AQA

### Skills

GCSE History provides you with a wide range of transferable skills. It develops your ability to deal with complex information, analyse and evaluate evidence, assess different viewpoints, and explain trends and patterns across large periods of time. It provides invaluable context for other subjects, and the world we live in today, and develops effective communication (both in written and verbal forms).

As it is a subject that develops your ability to think critically and independently, it is one that is highly valued by further education, universities, and employers.

### Knowledge

Students will study the following units:

#### Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

- **Section A: Germany 1890-1945** – This unit covers a turbulent half century of Germany history. Students will begin by learning about the aims of the Kaiser and the disastrous consequences of WWI. They will then see how Germany tried to rebuild itself and see how the Weimar Government tried to deal with the chaos of the 1920s. From here, they will learn about how the Nazis exploited the economic crisis of the 1930s to persuade and bully their way into power. Finally, students will learn about the impact that Nazi rule had on ordinary people, focusing on changes to the lives of workers, children, women, and minorities.
- **Section B: Conflict and Tension 1919-1939** – This unit covers the chaos of the two decades between WWI and WWII. Students begin by learning about what each superpower wanted at the end of the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles that followed. They then look at the attempts of the newly formed League of Nations and their (unsuccessful) attempts to avoid another war. The final topic looks at the road to the Second World War and focusses on the questions at how the world ended up at war again, and whether or not this could have been avoided.

#### Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

- **Section A: Migration, Empire, and the People c790-Present Day** – This unit is a thematic study, which focuses on several areas. Firstly, students will look at the rise and fall of empires involving Britain and evaluate why empires developed and why they eventually collapsed. Then, students will look at the migration of peoples to and from Britain and look at their motives, impact, and experiences. This unit covers a huge amount of time and space, through a series of well selected, interesting case studies.
- **Section B: Elizabethan England c1568-1603** – This unit is an in-depth study of Elizabethan England. Students begin by looking at the government of Elizabeth's England and how she managed to keep control over ambitious nobles. Students then focus on what life

was like for ordinary people living in England, including the lives and achievements of some of Britain's greatest explorers. Finally, students learn about the threats from home and abroad that Elizabeth faced, and how she successfully dealt with them.

**Assessment:**

- Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World (2 hours/50% of final grade)
  - o 1 hr on Germany 1890-1945
  - o 1 hr on Conflict and Tension 1919-1939
- Paper 2: Shaping the Nation (2 hours/50% of final grade)
  - o 1 hr on Migration, Empire, and the Peoples c790-Present Day
  - o 1 hr in Elizabethan England c1568-1603

**For further details, please speak to your History teacher, or Miss Barnes (Head of History).**