

History GCSE (Optional)

Board: AQA

Course Content

Skills

History also provides you with a wide range of transferable skills, which can be used across a range of careers or subjects for further study. It equips you with the ability to deal with complex information, analyse and evaluate evidence, assess different viewpoints and spot trends and patterns across time. It also develops written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to think critically and independently. It is a subject that is highly valued by universities and employers.

Knowledge

History also teaches us about peoples and societies in the past and helps us explain the shape of the modern world. It allows us to understand our own identities and challenge common misconceptions.

In the 'Understanding the Modern World' exam paper, you will explore the reasons for the development of Nazi Germany, tracing its roots back to the pre-First World War Kaiser regime and the failed experiment in Weimar Democracy. This unit places emphasis on questions surrounding issues such as how a totalitarian regime emerged and how the regime impacted upon, and provoked reaction amongst, the German people. The wider world depth study allows students to gain an understanding of the complexities of problems that caused World War Two, from the disastrous Treaty of Versailles, abject failure of the League of Nations to create world peace and ultimately Hitler's aggressive road to war. This enables a good understanding of how the modern international situation has been created, and an insight in methods to prevent conflict.

In the 'Shaping the Nation' paper, there are two major areas of study. This includes a thematic study on Migration, Empire and the People, which seeks to explore British identity and its role in the world, linking factors between eras and helping us to understand our diverse heritage. Half of the unit focuses on what caused people to migrate to and from Britain and how this has impacted our culture and values. The other half studies the role of the British Empire, analyzing the reasons for its development and the complex and controversial impact of colonialism. We finish by looking at how decolonization has occurred and the lasting legacy of Empire, which is more relevant than ever today. The British Depth Study focussed on the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and the key events of her reign including the execution of Mary Queen of Scots and the defeat of the Spanish Armada. It enables students to gain awareness of religious, political, social and cultural development and controversies surrounding them. It will also include a study of an Elizabethan historic environment, allowing students to experience the realities of life in the period.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Understanding the Modern World (2 hours/50% of final grade)

- Section A Period Study (Germany 1890-1945)
- Section B Wider World Depth Study (Conflict and Tension 1919-39)

Paper 2 - Shaping the Nation (2 hours/50% of final grade)

- Section A Thematic Study (Britain: Migration, Empire and the People)
- Section B British Depth Study and the Historic Environment (Elizabethan England 1568-1603)

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