

# HISTORY

History is the fascinating study of why decisions made in the past have created the world we live in today. It is people watching without having to travel and uniquely explores the role of social, political and economic factors, as well as the necessity of significant individuals in shaping key moments of change. But History is also relevant to the demands of the modern world because we can judge the significance of today's events by comparing and contrasting them to what has gone before.

History never really says goodbye. History says 'See you later'. Eduardo Galeano

## Course Outline

We study the GCSE AQA Exam Board Specification. There are 2 Papers examined at the end of Year 11.

### **Paper 1: Modern Wider World History: Conflict and Tension between East and West – The Cold War 1945-72**

We begin by looking into the differences between the ideologies of Capitalism in the USA and Communism in the USSR; why were they so hostile to each other and why did the Cold War develop after they had worked together to defeat Nazism in 1945? Some suggest that every event of the Twentieth Century can be traced back to the 1917 Communist Revolution in the USSR; how accurate is that?

We then study the dramatic flash points of the following 27 years that at times led to the world sitting on the edge of nuclear war: the dropping of the Atomic bomb on Japan, the Berlin Blockade and Airlift, the Korean War, revolts in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the building of the Berlin Wall and finally the beginnings of détente in the 1970s.

### **Paper 1: Modern Wider World History: America 1920-73 – Opportunity and Inequality**

In this Topic we learn why and how the USA emerged as an economic superpower after World

War I and how life in the 1920s 'roared' for many, as those who had survived World War One altered social norms; women cut their hair, shortened their hem lines, mass sporting events such as baseball emerged, and the era of the Hollywood 'celebrity' began.

We then move into the 1930s and the USA's economic depression, triggered by the Wall Street Crash; what lessons were not learned which led to another global downturn in 2008? We also study race relations within the USA looking at the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s through to Civil Rights campaigners such as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King in the 1960s. Student protest over the Vietnam War and the developing rights of women play a key part in the last years of the Topic.

### **Paper 2: British History: Power and the People 1170 to present**

This is a fascinating study of the key events in British History that have enabled us to live in the Parliamentary Democracy that we enjoy today. Political power slowly descending down the social hierarchy is the central theme, and we start with Kings and Queens in the Twelfth Century believing their power was God given and so unquestionable.

We move through Magna Carta, Peasants' Revolt, Pilgrimage of Grace, Civil War, Glorious Revolution, Great Reform Act, the Suffragettes and Equal Pay Legislation for women and ethnic minorities to explore how power transferred firstly, to the aristocracy, then gentry, middle class men, working class men, women and finally ethnic minorities. This topic enables us to make substantiated judgements about whether power was 'given' or 'taken' – from whom and by whom?

### **Paper 2: British History: Elizabethan England c. 1568-1603**

Elizabeth I continues to be considered one of England's greatest monarchs and the aim of this course is to test whether the Elizabethan Age was truly a 'Golden Era'. We study the key events of Elizabeth's rule such as the defeat of the Spanish Armada, her policy of religious toleration, her

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fraught relationship with Mary Queen of Scots and her refusal to name an heir. Within this topic we study an Elizabethan historic building and for Year 11 in 2021 this will be Kenilworth Castle, which we will visit. Many pupils enjoy returning to studying a Tudor monarch, which they last did in Year 7 or 8 and being able to understand much more fully this interesting Queen.

## Assessment

Paper 1: 2-hour examination. 50% of the GCSE

Paper 2: 2-hour examination. 50% of the GCSE

## Educational Visits

- Year 10: RAF Cosford Cold War Museum
- Year 11: Visit to the Elizabethan Historic Building, which in 2021 is Kenilworth Castle
- Optional International Visits to Washington DC and Berlin run alternately every two years

## Learning outside the Classroom

- Lectures from visiting speakers and enrichment clinics
- Webinar lectures from the AQA Exam Board

## Who is GCSE History suitable for?

History suits a very wide range of pupils. It may be that you have a passion for finding out about the past, or of making sense of the world today; the course also suits those who enjoy a debate in which there is no 'right' answer, the success being how persuasive and convincing you are. This means that you will learn how to show complex understanding and make a substantiated judgement, as well as learning how to evaluate sources, which in today's society we would call recognising fake news; in this way studying the past has never been more relevant.

**Ms J Selby**  
**Head of History**