



### Introduction

The department aims to provide a stimulating, challenging, enriching and rewarding programme that provides our students with a broad understanding of the subject.

Students will learn to use all the skills of a historian, understanding that the subject has a methodology that is unique yet one which will be applicable to a wide range of situations throughout life. These skills include independent research, critical analysis and the ability to communicate in a fluent, persuasive and effective manner both orally and on paper. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their ability to think conceptually, examining such ideas as causation, change, continuity, reliability and bias as well as historiography. Above all we hope to foster a lasting and deep love for the subject, one that will stimulate a lifelong engagement in our students and equip them with skills which will help them make sense of the world in which they live.

In Year 13 students study two units to complete their A Level studies in History.

Unit Three is a study of the Protest, Agitation and Parliamentary Reform from c1780 to 1928.

Unit Four is a coursework unit based on historians' interpretations of the origins of the Cold War.

They will also revise the units they studied in Year 12.

A high level of commitment is required for the A Level course. There will be a good deal of reading and sustained application is needed if a good grade to be achieved. This is a course for those who are motivated and who enjoy the subject and who are prepared to work hard.

### Why study History at A Level

History is increasingly attracting students for a number of reasons. Above all, many pursue History because they love to engage with the past and find it stimulating and rewarding. We believe that this is the best reason for continuing with History at this level.

Some do so because it is considered by universities to be a very valuable academic subject, one that prepares students well in a range of transferable skills and that reflects true academic ability. The subject is highly regarded by admissions tutors. Some choose History because it forms part of a well balanced selection of subjects that will allow them to develop the skills to follow a particular course at university, perhaps whether it be History, Politics, International Relations, Economics, PPE, Law, English, or Modern Languages. Others follow it because it can complement their choice of subjects, showing a breadth and variety that will strengthen their university application, for example if they wish to pursue a career in medicine, engineering or business. As an A level subject it works well as a complement to Mathematics and the Sciences.

### Content

#### Paper 1:

- Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin
- Communist Government in the USSR, 1918-1985
- Industrial and Agricultural Change, 1917-85

- Control of the People, 1917-85
- Social Developments, 1917-85
- What explains the Fall of the USSR, 1985-1991

### **Paper 2:**

- Mao's China, 1949-1976
- Establishing Communist Rule, 1949-57
- Agriculture and Industry, 1949-65
- The Cultural Revolution and its Aftermath, 1966-76
- Social and Cultural Changes, 1949-76

### **Paper 3:**

- Aspects in Breadth:
- Reform of parliament, c1780-1928
- Changing influences in parliament: the impact of parliamentary reform, c1780-1928
- Aspects in Depth:
- Radical Reformers, c1790-1819
- Chartism, c1838-1850
- Contagious Diseases Acts and the campaign for their repeal, 1862-86
- The Women's Social and Political Union, 1903-14
- Trades Union Militancy, 1915-27

### **Paper 4:**

- Coursework on the Origins of the Cold War
- Students will research and then write up an enquiry (of between 3,000 to 4,000 words) into the historical interpretations of the causes of the Cold War based on the views of three historians. The assignment will assess the ability to carry out a historical enquiry, analysing and evaluating historical interpretations, and organising and communicating the findings.

### **Revision:**

- There will also be a revision module covering the Russia and China units which were studied in Year 12 as well as the units studied in Year 13 which will help students prepare for the three exam papers taken in May and June of the final year of the course.

### **Skills**

The A level History course enables students to:

- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance.
- develop and refine their communication skills, both written and oral as well as the ability to discuss and debate in an informed and persuasive manner.
- acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of aspects such as social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity.
- build on their understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study.
- improve as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds.
- develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them.

- acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements are provisional.
- develop their use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills.
- make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past.
- Use primary and secondary sources, students will be introduced to the full range of historical skills, including analysis, evaluation, cross referencing and evaluating judgements in the light of available evidence.
- organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements.

## Homework

Homework will be set each week and students will also be required to show initiative and to work independently. Full completion of all homework is vital for a student to make the progress needed for a good grade.

Reading and note-taking forms the base of a student's knowledge and understanding. Written exercises will vary, but regular essays will form a vital part of the course.

In addition, students will be asked to prepare a variety of short research pieces, seminar discussions and presentations.

## Assessment

Regular short tests, evidence exercises and past questions form part of the assessment regime.

The final exam is made up of three separate exam papers, each taken on a different day. Pupils will be prepared thoroughly for each paper and the types of questions they use.

Assessment will be via regular essays, both timed and prepared. There will be a full mock exam in the second term of Year 13 which follow the format and style of the papers which students will take in the A level exam.

The A Level will involve the assessment of all four units studied over the course of the two years of the course:

### Paper 1: Russia, 1917-1991: From Lenin to Yeltsin (30% of the A Level).

This examination lasts 2 hours 15 minutes. Students answer three questions: one from Section A, one from Section B and one from Section C.

- **Section A** comprises a choice of two essay questions that assess understanding of the period in breadth. Questions will normally cover periods of at least 10 years and target causation or consequence.
- **Section B** comprises a choice of two essay questions that assess understanding of the period in breadth and target content specified in the Themes. Questions will normally cover periods equivalent to at least a third of the time span of the Themes. Causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference, significance could be included.
- **Section C** comprises one compulsory question that assesses the ability to analyse and evaluate interpretations and target content specified in Historical interpretations for the relevant option.
- Questions will be based on two extracts from historical interpretations totalling approximately 300 words.

### **Paper 3 (30% of the A Level).**

Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes. Students answer three questions: one from Section A, one from Section B and one from Section C.

- **Section A** comprises one compulsory question on the Protest, Agitation and Parliamentary Reform 1780-1928, assessing source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2).
- **Section B** comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth.
- **Section C** comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in breadth.
- Total 60 marks.

### **Paper 4 (20% of the A Level).**

- The purpose of this coursework is to enable students to develop skills in the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of history in a chosen question, problem or issue as part of an independently researched assignment.
- The focus is on understanding the nature and purpose of the work of the historian. Students will be required to form a critical view based on relevant reading on the question, problem or issue. They will also be specifically required to analyse, explain and evaluate the interpretations of three historians.
- Student will produce an historical essay of between 3,000-4,000 words which will consider the differences of interpretation over the causes of the Cold War.

### **Digital usage in this subject**

All students use Google Classroom to access resources, homework tasks, online quizzes as well as study and revision advice. Recommended websites and videos will be posted through Google Classroom. Students may also be asked to use Pages, Keynote and Numbers to produce work and to collaborate using Google Education apps including Docs, Slides and Forms.

### **Average time spent each homework**

1 hour

### **Typical tasks set**

- Consulting resources on Google Classroom
- Producing presentations
- Collaborative work
- Research

### **Resources and Materials**

- Core textbook: Cambridge IGCSE and O Level History Option B Modern World History, 2nd Edition by Ben Walsh (Hodder Education)
- Depth Study textbook: The USA between the Wars, 1919-41. A Study in Depth
- School-developed resources and worksheets.
- Video clips.
- History websites.
- Google Classroom.
- Moodle

## **Apps and websites habitually used**

MrBvideoclips: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrBvideoclips/playlists>

Massolit lectures: <https://www.massolit.io/>

The Historical Association: <https://www.history.org.uk>

Moodle: [www.runnymede-college.net](http://www.runnymede-college.net)

Seneca and Quizlet are recommended for revision.

Some classes will also use Moodle and Schoology to access resources