

HISTORY A-LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A-Level History exposes students to a much more global narrative of history than the one studied at GCSE level. Studying the histories of other nations, such as the USA and South Africa, provides a broader historical framework from which students can contextualise both the past and present. Moreover, in studying the impact of the British Empire, both internally in Britain and on indigenous populations worldwide, students are able to navigate through the multitude of historical misconceptions that have recently become a focus of national 'debate.'

In studying A-Level History, students will become curious about the past and develop an appreciation for the intrinsic value of History as an academic discipline. Students are taught how historians reach a substantiated judgement, weighing up both available evidence and the relative significance of factors for change. Moreover, students are exposed to a wide range of contemporary sources and historical interpretations, appreciating how historians are able to construct narratives of the past; analysis and evaluation of source material and interpretations accounts for 50% of the A-Level course. Crucially, students are able to develop vital academic skills needed for any future career: the ability to analyse and evaluate, make informed judgements, discern fact from misinformation and critique the judgements of others.

COURSE CONTENT:

- **Paper 1** - In search of the American Dream: the USA, 1917–1996
- **Paper 2** - 1948–1994: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'
- **Paper 3** - Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914
- **Coursework NEA** - A single 4000 word essay, evaluating historical interpretations on a topic of your choice.

ASSESSMENT:

Linear structure, with exams at the end of the two years, in addition to one piece of coursework.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

A good number of students who take History at A-Level feel inspired to study the subject at university. Alternatively, History is seen as a facilitating subject and therefore highly valued by university admission boards as evidence of a student's academic ability. There are a number of job opportunities in which History can be used directly, for example Teaching. The wider value of the subject is that it teaches students to use information in a logical and analytical manner. These transferable skills are highly valued by many professional and commercial organisations which regard History as being able to provide a first class training for the mind. Students who are able to argue analytically about historical problems possess the skills to analyse problems and issues elsewhere.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 6 in GCSE History or a 6 in English if you haven't studied GCSE History.

