

Course Level

A level

Awarding Body

OCR (H505)

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE History
(Non Historians will need Grade 6 in
GCSE English Language)

Assessment

Units 1, 2 & 3 are externally assessed by separate written papers at the end of the two year course. Unit 4 is internally assessed by centres and externally moderated by OCR.

Course Description

History is a very well regarded facilitating subject which allows students to learn about periods and develop a wide range of eminently transferable skills. Our course aims to allow students access to both breadth and depth in their learning whilst helping students think for themselves, to form judgements and to train themselves to research, evaluate and analyse historical problems. Students develop the skills to express themselves coherently through reasoned argument.

Unit 1 Y107 England 1547–1603: The Later Tudors

This unit contains an enquiry topic examining the Mid Tudor Crisis under Edward VI and Mary as well as the religious changes and rebellions suffered by these rulers. This focusses on the analysis of contemporary sources. The unit then follows a period study looking at Elizabeth's reign and examining her approaches to religion and parliament as well as her management of financial, economic and social affairs. Considering whether this really was a 'golden age'.

Unit 2 Y216 The USA in the 19th Century: Westward expansion and Civil War 1803–c.1890

This unit looks at the formation of Modern America, firstly examining the westward expansion of America and the relationship between the settlers and Native Americans and their culture. The unit then examines the tensions leading to the American Civil War and the Civil War itself, including analysing how and why the North won.

Unit 3 Y312 Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th Centuries

This theme focuses on the rise and decline in witchcraft during the 16th and 17th centuries and how far it emerged out of the popular culture of the time. We will examine the reasons for the increase and subsequent decline in persecutions, the nature of the Witchcraze, the reactions of the authorities and its impact on society. We look across Europe and America and think about how and why people were treated so differently.

Unit 4 Y100 Topic based essay.

This essay is an exciting opportunity to engage in genuinely independent historical research. Students will investigate and analyse different perspectives on a historical issue, drawing on a range of primary and secondary material. It will use the skills and understanding developed elsewhere in the course. As an independent enquiry using a range of sources and interpretations, the essay will require students to develop an understanding of how historians work. The essay must be based on the independent investigation of historical issue. The issue may arise from the study of a period or topic we've studied or it may be on a topic, or from a period, that the learner has not studied as part of the A level course but is really interested in, current examples include Rasputin's influence on the Russian Revolution, The ways Hitler used women to maintain the Nazi regime and the reasons for Vargas' success in the Brazilian Revolution.

Special Requirements

There is an expectation that students will carry out substantial wider reading around the topics being studied. Reading lists will be provided and there is significant support available. It is also expected that students will endeavour to attend trips and lectures as they are offered.

Career and Progression Opportunities

A Level History can lead to a range of career and university education possibilities including Law, Teaching, Journalism, Media, Broadcasting, Archaeology, Research, Advertising, Heritage / Conservation, Tourism, Economics and Museum services. It also complements a range of other courses and career paths as the skills of analytical thinking, argument and source analysis are widely prized.

Link to Syllabus

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/>