



History

History Advanced Level, Edexcel 8HI01, 9HI01

Requirements

The Department sets no GCSE requirements, but hopes that pupils will take A level because they have a genuine interest in the subject. Pupils will be expected to read widely, research material independently and be able to write with increasing accuracy and fluency. The ability of argue will also be an advantage. The Department will, of course, aim to foster all these skills and has over recent years produced some extremely gifted historians who have gone on to study the subject at university.

The Lower Sixth Year

In the Lower Sixth pupils will study two units. Unit one is an essay paper, and there is a choice of Russia 1855-1924 or Italian and German Unification. In the examination, which is held in the summer of the Lower Sixth, pupils will write two essays. Unit Two is a source paper, and pupils will again have a choice of either Irish history from 1867-1922 or British history 1945-80. In the summer examination pupils will answer two source-based questions. Both Unit one and Unit two are one hour and 20m minutes in length.

The aim of the Lower Sixth year is to prepare pupils for the more substantial essay questions and coursework demands of A2.

The Upper Sixth Year

There are two further units in the Upper Sixth. One is a coursework unit. This will be either Indian history from 1900-1947 or Colonisation and Decolonisation in Africa, 1870-1981. The Department will teach the basic course outline, and then pupils are free to choose two areas of their topic to study and write about; one will be an issue of the significance of an individual or event within the period, and another will look at the long and short-term causes of a key issue, such as Indian independence or the decolonisation of a particular state. Pupils will then research the issues more widely and find their own source material.

The second paper is an essay paper on the topic of Germany, 1900-1945. Pupils will be expected to answer two questions, both of which focus on particular historical controversies within the period studied; one question will be based on sources. This is a fascinating period of history and one which provides pupils with a good grounding in political concepts.

Why study the subject?

Pupils will acquire both breadth and depth of historical knowledge and develop their skills of communicating this knowledge in a clear and effective manner. They will further their understanding of historical explanations and develop the ability to reach substantiated judgements. In particular

they will continue to advance their skills of handling and evaluating source material. These skills are much in demand in today's changing world and the choice of History is a gateway to a wide range of careers. In recent years many pupils have decided to study the subject at university, or have used their A level in history to enter a law course, where the skills are interchangeable.

The Department

The Department is staffed with highly qualified, experienced and committed teachers who are devoted to their subject. The Department is well stocked with books (it has its own library), has all courses on Moodle, including teaching notes, and has a bank of additional materials, including revision materials, articles and a growing DVD collection.