



History

History Advanced Level. OCR 3835,7835.

As you might know History at Advanced Level has recently changed – but perhaps more than most other subjects. The more significant changes have been:

1. A reduction in the quantity of material to be studied.
2. Examinations at the end of each unit rather than at the end of two years (this is called the modular route). In reality, this means three examinations at the end of the Lower-Sixth Year.
3. Less emphasis on the written essay.

The Lower Sixth Year

In the Lower Sixth Year, pupils will study three units for the new AS level. Two of the units are on Italy 1830-1870, focusing on Italian Unification: one unit is source-based and the other consists of one 45-minute essay. The third unit is on Britain 1899-1918, focusing on the Liberals and Labour, and, likewise, is tested by means of one essay.

The three units are examined on a modular basis in June. The examinations, of either three-quarters of an hour or one hour length, are akin to the GCSE style with which boys are familiar. The study of source material, as well as the essay, plays a significant role.

The Upper Sixth Year

Pupils wishing to continue to the full A-level take a further three units in the Upper Sixth Year, to be known as A2. The first unit involves the study of a chosen period, in our case Roosevelt's America 1920-1941, in greater depth. The second unit involves the study of a chosen theme, 'Russian Dictatorship 1855-1956'. The final unit will be in the form of a chosen personal study requiring the submission of an extended essay. The opportunity to study in some depth a topic of one's own choosing is particularly appealing and rewarding.

Skills

Pupils will acquire both breadth and depth of historical knowledge and develop their skills of communication this knowledge in a clear and effective manner. They will further their understanding of historical explanations and develop their ability to reach substantiated judgements. In particular, they will continue to enhance their skills of handling and evaluating source material. The skills acquired are much in demand in today's changing world and the choice of History is a gateway to a wide range of careers.