

A-Level History

Entry Requirements: History GCSE Grade 6 and 5 in GCSE English Language.

Exam Board: OCR

Subject Leader: Mr A McAuley amcauley@taptonschool.co.uk

Main Syllabus Area

Unit 1 - England 1547-1603: the later Tudors

Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crisis, 1547-1558

- The stability of the monarchy - Edward VI and Mary
- Religious changes
- Rebellion and unrest

British period study

- Elizabeth and religion
- The nature of Elizabethan monarchy; Government and Parliament
- Elizabeth's management of financial, economic and social affairs
- Elizabeth's later years, 1588-1603

Unit 2: Non-British Period Study

Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963

- The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919-Jan 1933
- The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933-1939
- The impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939-1949
- Divided Germany: The Federal Republic and the DDR 1949-1963

Unit 3: Thematic Study and historical interpretations

Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

Key topics

- African Americans
- Trade Union and Labour rights
- Native American Indians
- Women

Depth Studies

- Civil rights in the 'Gilded Age' c.1875-c.1895
- The New Deal and civil rights
- Malcolm X and Black Power

Method of Assessment

A-Level -all examined papers taken at the end of Year 13

Paper 1 - 25% (1 hour 30-minute exam)

Paper 2 - 15% (1 hour exam)

Paper 3 - 40% (2-hour 30 exam)

Topic based essay (coursework) - 20% (completed during Year 13)

Qualities Required

A genuine love of History, an enquiring mind and good literacy skills.

Links with other subjects

History combines well with any subject, but especially English, Economics, Geography, Politics, Sociology and Languages. It also makes an excellent contrast with Mathematics and Science subjects.

Career Prospects

History is a good foundation subject for many degree courses across a wide range of subjects including Law, Business Studies, Economics, Social Policy, Philosophy, Social Sciences and Educational Studies. A History degree is good preparation for a wide range of occupations, for example, journalism, marketing, personnel, public service, law, advertising, insurance, teaching or museum work.

Extension and Enrichment Opportunities

We have good links to the University's History Department and this allows us to engage with a range of enrichment activities through them. We offer a study visit to Berlin in the summer term of Year 12.

Reading List

Thinking of continuing to KS5:

The Tudors : A Very Short Introduction - John Guy

OCR A-Level History England 1485-1603 - Nicholas Fellows & Mary Dicken

OCR A-Level History Democracy & Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963 -Nicholas Fellows

Access to History: Democracy & Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963 for OCR 2nd Edition - Geoff Layton

Access to History: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 for OCR 2nd Edition - Nicholas Fellows & Mike Wells

OCR A-Level History Civil Rights in the USA 1865 - 1992 - David Paterson

Y13

History: A Very Short Introduction (2000)- John Arnold

Common People: The History of an English Family (2015) - Alison Light

The Making of the English Landscape (1955) - W.G. Hoskins

The Return of Martin Guerre (1983) - Natalie Zemon Davis

Independent Study

Blog Post

<https://manyheadedmonster.wordpress.com/2017/06/15/what-should-prospective-history-students-read-over-the-summer/>

Two essays (freely available online): An Image of Africa - Racism in Conrad's Heart of Darkness - Chinua Achebe

How to Write About Africa - Binyavanga Wainaina