



A Level History

KS5 Leader: Mrs K Stocker • Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Entry Requirements:

GCSE grade 4 in History or another GCSE Humanities subject and a grade 4 in English

Course Outline:

Paper 1: Britain Transformed 1918-1979 Breadth Study with interpretations (Margaret Thatcher 1979-1997)

Paper 2: The USA Boom, Bust and Recovery (Depth) 1920-1955

Paper 3: Protest and Rebellion under the Tudors 1485-1603

Coursework: 'Historians have disagreed about the extent to which the Holocaust was a long term plan. What is your view about the extent to which it was a long term plan?'

This is a linear A Level, so students will be examined externally ONLY at the end of Year 13.

Assessment:

Paper 1: 2 ¼ Hours – 2 essays and a study of interpretations (30% of the final grade) (Year 12 and 13)

Paper 2: 1 ½ Hours – 1 essay and a comparative question on the usefulness of sources (20% of the final grade) (Year 12 and 13)

Paper 3: 2 ¼ - Themes in breadth (Year 13) 1 compulsory source question and two essays.
(30% of the final grade)

Coursework – (Year 13) (20% of Final Grade)

Learning strategies:

History is a content heavy subject and requires well developed written skills. It is essential that students enjoy reading as note making is an important element of A Level study and will form a core activity in lessons. Discussion is also a key component of lessons as the best lessons are those where students are willing to share and discuss their opinion. As the course has a strongly political aspect, students must follow the news whether by reading a newspaper or online. Student will also be required to deliver presentations and work effectively in groups. Students will be taught how to write essays and to answer both source and interpretation questions using the relevant Assessment Objectives set by the exam board. This will be supported by homework and timed essays in class. A Level History is a big step up from GCSE: the successful history student is motivated, genuinely interested in the subject and able to work independently. Most importantly they must be able to read complex texts; selecting appropriate information with the ability to read between the lines.