

History

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I choose History?

Ideally we would like students to opt because of an interest in the subject, engagement with the topics in the syllabus and an understanding of the importance of the skills we have sought to develop over the past three years. History is a literate subject that develops students' written and analytical skills, whilst encouraging pupils to interrogate information effectively, sifting fact from opinion and the reliable from the unreliable. In the modern world these are essential skills



Why is the course different to that which has been taught previously?

Due to the alignment of GCSE's across the WEST Schools we will be changing some of the content of the GCSE for this year whilst keeping some elements the same.

Is there coursework?

No. Everything is assessed in three exams at the end of the GCSE.

How much extended writing is there?

All GCSE's have extended writing, but in History there is a substantial amount. The largest is the 16-mark 'How far do you agree?' that you have practised in Years 7-9 and would be expected to take 20-25 minutes to complete. Other question styles that you will be familiar with are: The Inference Question and Usefulness Question.

How much reading is there?

Again, this being a knowledge-heavy GCSE, there is a significant amount of reading to be undertaken.

How much homework is there?

Teachers will be setting homework on a fortnightly basis. This may be a combination of exam practice, wider reading or viewing.

Can I access the syllabus online?

Yes. The information can be found at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

and:

<http://www.historynetwork.co.uk/gcse/>

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Are there approved student support and revision guides?

There are several examples which can be viewed from the links to Amazon at:

<http://www.historynetwork.co.uk/gcse/>

as well as materials produced by the History Department placed on the School Shared Area. These can be accessed using the guidance film below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOHuZWSSC4k>

Please go to the GCSE Revision file.

How should I go about planning to revise for my GCSE in History?

We will be encouraging students to view revision as an ongoing process and have produced the following guidance film to illustrate a way in which students can approach their work as they progress through their GCSE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjZCGaLowmk&t=132s>

What additional support can I get?

The GCSE is fully resourced on Google Classroom so all materials and resources can be accessed remotely. This includes teacher videos and supported reading. The course is also supported on the web at:

<http://www.historynetwork.co.uk/gcse/>

We also provide extension materials to allow students to gain access to the highest levels while regularly timetabling support sessions to allow students to catch up and consolidate their learning.

Are there tiered papers?

No. All GCSE History students will sit one common set of exams.

How are the classes set?

This is very much dependent upon the nature of the cohort of students that choose to take the subject and not finalised until after the option process.

