

The Course

The AQA A Level specification consists of three units:

Unit 1: Tudor England 1485 - 1603

How did Richard III end up buried under a car park in Leicester? Why did Henry VIII break from Rome and establish the Church of England? Why was Mary I 'bloody'? How did Elizabeth, a 'mere woman', rule England for 45 years?

Unit 2: Cold War 1945-91

Why did the wartime allies fall out so quickly? How close to nuclear extinction did we come during the Cuban Missile Crisis? Did America 'win' the Cold War?

Unit 3: Coursework

This allows you to investigate a historical issue which interests you and to write an essay about it which will count for 20% of the A Level.

Why study History?

- Firstly, it is interesting! If you do not have at least some curiosity about the past and why things happened the way they did, then you probably won't be reading this.
- The intention of this course is to provide a contrast to the predominantly modern history which makes up most GCSEs. It is a mixture of British and European, traditional and modern history, and should provide a varied and stimulating course enhanced by trips abroad: in recent years the department has visited Moscow, St Petersburg, Washington and New York.
- Lessons involve discussing your research, making presentations, and arguing your point in debates. Smaller classes mean there is much more opportunity for class discussion at A Level – in fact the subject is largely class discussion based.
- Ultimately you will have to demonstrate your understanding by writing essays and answering source based questions.

What can I do with a qualification in this subject?

The study of History develops 'transferable skills'. This means that someone with A Level History can read a piece of information, analyse it, pick out the important points, assess whether it is biased or not, put together a written report and argue their case using the available evidence. These skills are highly prized in any number of professions, most notably law, but also business, journalism, the media, the civil service, advertising and many others. History is considered to be an academically rigorous subject and is respected by university admissions tutors and employers alike.

What do I need to study History?

A minimum Grade 6 in GCSE History is required and a Grade 7 is strongly recommended.

A Level subject video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJaohvyATcl>

