



HISTORY



A Level Specification:

EDEXCEL History

(www.edexcel.com)

Examination / Assessment details:

Route E	Duration	Weighting
Communist states in 20th C		
1E:Russia 1917-91 From Lenin to Yeltsin (Breadth Study)	Essay Paper: 2.15 minutes. 60 marks	30%
2E.1:Mao's China 1949-76 (Depth Study)	Sources and Essay Paper: 2.15 minutes. 40 marks	20%
Lancastrians, Yorkists, Henry VII 1399 -1509	Source and Essay Paper: 2.15 minutes. 60 marks	30%
Coursework: The Causes of the American Civil War	Complete during the year. 40 marks	20%

COURSE AIMS:

During your course you will learn about the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in history; how and why societies have changed over time; the theories of historians and the language that they use to discuss their ideas; to understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians to analyse and evaluate it; to develop an understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented; to express your own historical ideas confidently and effectively.

QUALIFICATIONS, QUALITIES, EXPERIENCE DESIRABLE

The course will appeal to students who have an interest in the past and enjoy investigation and discovery; who enjoy debate and like putting forward a well-argued case; want to study a subject which encourages them to consider evidence and make up their own minds; want to broaden science AS or A2 studies to include a humanities subject and who want to keep their options open; History is regarded as a highly useful qualification for a wide range of higher education or career choices.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

The course is mainly taught through classroom discussion. You will be required to take notes, read independently and to analyse and evaluate sources. You will prepare for and take part in seminars, debates and role plays. Audio and visual sources are used in lessons. Skills include essay writing, note-taking, analysing historical sources and historians opinions. The primary key skill developed in History is of course communication, but you will also develop your skills in problem solving and working with others.

HOMEWORK

You are expected to undertake about two to three hours homework per week during the Lower Sixth. Structured assignments are set, but you are also expected to undertake independent learning. You will select and research a topic for coursework.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Students have always combined History with a wide range of subjects, including languages, the sciences and Maths. Obvious links exist to subjects such as English, Geography and Politics.

TRIPS & VISITS

Students may have the opportunity to take part in History conferences in London during the course. The cost of a conference is usually about £17, plus travelling expenses.

MATERIALS

Basic textbooks can be purchased through school, and a good stock of background books is available in the school and city libraries, but students do sometimes buy their own copies of particularly useful books.