

# A Level History



## Why this subject?

A Level History fosters a wide range of skills. Historians research, analyse, interpret, and present the past by studying a variety of historical documents and sources. Historians are often involved in conducting research and analysis for governments, businesses, historical associations, and other organisations. If you study History you will be engaged in historical enquiry which will help you develop as an independent learner as well as a critical and reflective thinker. You will learn to sift evidence, develop arguments and make substantiated judgements based on that evidence. You will also learn to present what you've learned in a way that makes sense to others - whether in graphs, essays or illustrated reports - and develop the confidence to defend your findings, a very useful skill in many careers. Apart from that, it's also fascinating and will help you make sense of the world around you and the people in it.

## Course Outline

### Year 12

**Unit 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855 – 1964: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia 1855 -1917:** This course examines how the Romanov dynasty attempted to preserve autocracy in Russia through alternating between reform and repression before 1917. We examine the growth of opposition, economic, social and political change in Russia and the reasons for, and the nature of, the eventual collapse of tsardom into revolution in 1917.

**Unit 2D Religious Conflict and the Church in England, 1529 – 1570: The Break with Rome, c. 1529—1547:** Students will study the social, political and spiritual role of the Church up to 1547 including criticisms made of it, as well as attempts at reform. We consider the King's 'Great Matter', the Reformation and the Dissolution of the Monasteries, culminating in a consideration of the extent of change and continuity in doctrine and the state of the Church and belief by 1547.

### Year 13

**Unit 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855 – 1964: The Soviet Union, 1917—1964:** The second part of the Russia course examines the emergence and reality of communist dictatorship under Lenin and then Stalin. We study the use of terror by the Communists, the social and economic development of Russia and the impact of WW2 on Stalinism. Our last topic area covers the accession of Khrushchev, his attempts to reject Stalinism, the opposition he faced and his eventual fall. We conclude by assessing the state of the Soviet Union by 1964.

**Unit 2D Religious Conflict and the Church in England, 1529 – 1570: The Establishment of the Church of England, 1547—c.1570:** The second part of the Tudor history course examines the problems surrounding the establishment of a new Anglican Church and faith. It explores concepts such as persecution and reform, opposition and conformity between 1547 and 1570. We look at the establishment of the Church of England and the state of religious life during Elizabeth's reign.

**Coursework: Historical Enquiry: Civil Rights in the USA, 1863-1968.** A 4,500-word essay.



AS AND  
A-LEVEL  
HISTORY

AS (7041)  
A-level (7042)

Specifications  
For teaching from September 2015 onwards  
For AS exams in May/June 2016 onwards  
For A-level exams in May/June 2017 onwards

Version 1.4 | July 2019



## Key Information

Exam Board	AQA
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	A Level Pathway. Grade 6 in GCSE History.
Head of Department	Mrs M Whiting



# A Level History



## Assessment Outline

**A Level: Two written papers, one coursework essay**

**Paper 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855—1964:**

Time: 2 hours 30 minutes

Marks: 80 marks (40% of A Level)

Section A (30 marks) one compulsory question linked to historical interpretations; Section B (2 x 25 marks) – two from three essays.

**Paper 2: Religious conflict in England, 1529—1570:**

Time: 2 hours 30 minutes,

Marks: 80 marks (40% of A Level).

Section A (30 marks) one compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period; Section B (2 x 25 marks) – two from three essays.

**Coursework: Historical Enquiry:** Civil rights in the USA, 1863-1968. Students produce a 4,000-4,500-word essay in Y13.

Marks: 40 marks (20% of A Level).



## Careers and next steps

Many History students go on to work in areas such as the legal profession, journalism, publishing, education or the heritage industry. Of course there are also many other careers which can be followed when History is combined with other subjects.

History plus Art could lead to work in a gallery or auction house (perhaps via an Art History degree, though there are also opportunities for non-graduates) or you might want to become an architect or architectural technician, specialising in projects involving listed buildings and heritage areas.

History plus a keen interest in politics or a desire to make the world a better place, could lead you into a whole range of career directions - local or national politics, charity work, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, or the Civil Service, to name but a few.

History plus Media Studies could lead into print or broadcast journalism. History plus administration skills (e.g. Word Processing, Accountancy, Business Management) could lead to you gaining experience in a variety of business careers then taking this, and your interest in history, into working for a heritage charity, or managing a historic property.

