

## **A Level History**

The History Department follows OCR History A level (H505). This is a two year A level course. The entry requirement is grade B in History (or grade B in English if you did not study GCSE History).

**There are 4 units to be studied:**

### **Year 12**

#### **Unit 1: Y108: The early Stuarts and the origins of the Civil War 1603 – 1660.**

This is a sourced based enquiry unit. The exam paper is 1 hour 30 minutes - (50 marks) and forms 25% of the total A level.

#### **Unit 2: Y216: The USA in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Westward Expansion and the Civil War 1803 -1890.** This is an in depth period study, with an emphasis on knowledge and understanding and judgement of the topics.

The exam paper is 1n hour and worth 30 marks. It forms 15% of the total A level.

### **Year 13**

**Unit 3: Y314: The Challenge of German Nationalism 1789 – 1919.** This is a thematic study of the period, with a focus on change and continuity over a substantial period, with an embedded depth study focusing on interpretations of significant individuals – Metternich, Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm II, key events e.g. Franco, Prussia War (1870), Napoleonic Wars on World War I and the key developments – economic or political.

#### **Unit 4: Y100: Topic Based essay.**

You will complete a 3000 – 4000 word essay on the topic of your choice. This will require you to independently research a topic. This is worth 40 marks and 20% of the total A level.

#### **How will you be assessed?**

You will be assessed on knowledge and understanding of the topics and will be able to develop the key skills required to achieve top grades. You will be taught and assessed on:

- a) Your ability to critically evaluate historical interpretations and sources.
- b) To evaluate primary sources in context, conveying a sense of insight.
- c) Your ability to demonstrate understanding of the past through analysis, explanation and arriving at substantiated judgements.
- d) Develop a clear understanding of key concepts – causation, continuity and change, significance

You will be required to and assessed on your ability to read around the subject, write essays and make detailed and relevant notes. You will also be assessed on your ability to present an argument and debate; you will be expected to prepare presentations on a key issue.

### **Why study A Level History?**

It is a fascinating, challenging and enjoyable subject. Studying A level History will allow you to develop important skills that will be useful to you throughout your life and particularly in your chosen career. The skill most developed by History is that of critical analysis and the ability to express ideas, knowledge and interpretation clearly and coherently. In the fields of Management, Law, Administration, Accounting, journalism, Media and marketing, this is a highly valued asset.

Many employers regard A level History as an excellent training in the marshalling of arguments and in decision making.

As a respected academic discipline, History is considered a worthwhile A level subject for entry to almost all degree courses. Furthermore, it provides those applying for predominantly scientific courses with academic breadth.

### **Enrichment**

1. You will be offered opportunities to work with History professionals from UCL on the American West and the English Civil War.
2. There are opportunities to attend the lessons from Auschwitz seminars on the Holocaust, meeting eminent historians and listening to debates. Two students will be chosen to go to Auschwitz as part of the project.
3. Pupils are encouraged to enter the Peterhouse Vellacott History competition in Year 12. You will have to write an essay on a chosen topic, this is a prestigious competition and an excellent preparation for Year 13 coursework and University.
4. There are trips organised by the History Department to widen historical knowledge and understanding – Berlin (2014) and the USA (2015).

***“Anybody can make history. Only a great man can write it”***

***Oscar Wilde***

**Be Great! Study History**

Lead member of staff: Mrs G. Rimmer – email: rimmer.g3@sta.islington.sch.uk