

# GCSE Modern History

## Why study Modern History?

Are you interested in studying world-changing twentieth century developments, from Nazi Germany to the rise of the USA as a global superpower? Did you enjoy studying the trenches of the First World War in Year 9? Did King Harold really get an arrow in the eye at the Battle of Hastings and why are so many “English” words actually French? If you want to find out about how the past has played a part in shaping the world you live in today then Modern History is for you.

## What will you be learning?

1. Medicine in Britain, c1250 to present
2. The British sector of the Western Front: injuries, treatment & the trenches, 1914-18
3. Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991
4. Anglo-Saxon & Norman England, c1060-1088
5. Weimar & Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

This Edexcel (9-1) course will generally suit those students interested in modern political history. This is balanced by the focus on the Norman Conquest and the first two units will also be of interest to those who are planning a career in medicine. Grades are awarded based on three written exams at the end of Year 11 with regular practice assessments throughout the course.

## What are lessons like?

GCSE Modern History lessons are made up of a variety of engaging approaches to studying the past. We use both original sources and recent information and there are opportunities to work both in groups and to carry out independent research. History lessons encourage you to think creatively and come to your own conclusions about key individuals and events. We also plan to visit Berlin.

*“I have always been interested in current affairs and this course has helped me to understand world events today and why they happen”* Year 11 student.

*“You get the opportunity to study some of the most important events of recent world history”* Year 10 student.

## What can it lead to?

Apart from a range of History courses at A level and university, History GCSEs are well-regarded by employers for the skills they provide. The ability to look at both sides of an argument, to write clearly, and the skills of individual research that you develop are highly valued. So too is the ability to analyse and interpret information to reach your own conclusions based on evidence, not just opinion. Also, don't imagine that Modern History is not for you if you are planning a career in Science. Universities are keen on scientists with all the skills mentioned above and History is extremely useful for careers in Law, Journalism, or Politics.

## Want to know more?

See Mr Barker or Mr Brooks in the History department.