

Why study History?

History isn't a subject that is stuck in the past. Far from it; historical events are what has shaped society worldwide into what it is today. Take the Magna Carta as a case in point. Signed in 1215, it was a charter which covered topics like taxes and citizen's rights. But it didn't exist in isolation because the Magna Carta wouldn't have happened without the Norman Conquest of 1066. And there's a direct line between the Magna Carta and the United States constitution which was signed in 1787 and remains a role model for governance even today.

The History course can help you to understand many aspects of life in the contemporary world. Have you ever wondered how the USA became a superpower? Which British politician became embroiled in a sex scandal in the 1960s? Was America's alcohol ban in the 1920s a success? Can I reach an informed opinion about Margaret Thatcher? Or maybe even Donald Trump!

What will you be learning?

There are three separate units from the AQA exam board which are studied throughout the two years.

Unit 1K: The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865-1975

This unit is centred on the history of the USA during a period of major change and upheaval. Mass immigration, prohibition and the rise of organised crime, fear of communism, and civil rights are just some of the issues you will study in relation to US domestic history. You will also investigate America's emergence as a global superpower as it entered two world wars, dropped the first nuclear bomb, and became embroiled in a generation-long Cold War with the USSR.

Unit 2S: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007.

This unit provides an opportunity to investigate in depth the nature and the extent of economic, social and cultural change in Britain during the post-war period. You will study prevailing attitudes towards education & class, trends in leisure & popular entertainment, and the status of women during this time. The politics of individuals such as Churchill, Thatcher, and Blair are just as important and this unit comes within a few years of current affairs by assessing Britain's changing role in Europe and the Middle East.

Unit 3: Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework)

You will be required to investigate 100 years of Russian history and write a 3,000 word essay based on your research. This will cover the period up to the revolution of 1917.

What are lessons like?

This course will appeal to those of you who like to voice an opinion and ask lots of questions. You will be encouraged to challenge evidence, study different sources & interpretations, formulate your own opinions, and justify them in writing. You will be expected to read widely, carry out research, and write essays on what you have learnt. As well as using traditional skills of listening, selecting and note-making, you will also be expected to prepare presentations and participate in group discussions and role-plays. To be successful at A Level history you will need to be literate, organised, have good study habits, and be a critical thinker.

What can it lead to?

Your A Level in History will give you knowledge and skills which will prepare you for higher education, and which are also be useful in any career. Students who specialise in History can go on to become researchers, teachers, journalists and the subject also supports career paths, like journalism, politics, law, social work and public services. An A Level in History will get you onto any History course at university but also onto a huge range of others, such as Politics, Law, and Management. The list is, in fact, almost endless because the skills which you develop can be applied to virtually any career. Some of the skills you will learn are:

- How to collect relevant factual data
- Analyse factual material to construct a convincing argument
- How to evaluate historical sources
- Engage with academic debate
- How to put over your point of view fluently, both orally and in writing

Do you want to know more?

This course is suitable for students who have successfully studied either of the History options at GCSE (and we will consider candidates who haven't).

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact D.Palmer@qes.org.uk or T.Barker@qes.org.uk