



A-Level Course Information



Qualification: Advanced Level History

Exam Board: OCR

Subject Leader: Miss J. Landy

Entry Requirements:

Minimum Entry Requirements:

5 x 5s

4 in English and Maths

Subject Specific Entry Requirements:

6 in GCSE History

Students who haven't taken GCSE History should get in touch with Miss Landy at jlandy@combertonvc.org

Why study History?

History is not just about the past. It is fundamental to shaping our understanding of present day societies, cultures and politics, as well as playing an undeniable role in influencing our future. History is a fascinating subject that enables you to learn about everything from the fall of Empires and ancient regimes to the mystery of a child accusing her own mother of witchcraft. History develops a range of essential transferable skills including verbal and written communication and the critical evaluation of evidence.

What can I do with History after A-Level?

With History A-level, students can go on to study the subject at university. However, there is a huge number of transferable skills which students develop through studying History: communication skills (written and verbal), the ability to evaluate critically evidence in a variety of forms, and the ability to evaluate critically arguments and interpretations. It is very highly regarded by employers and will equip students for many different occupations, including teaching, law, journalism and working in the Civil Service.

History Extras

- Where possible, we work with politics to organise a trip to the Houses of Parliament and the Churchill War Rooms in London.
- The department regularly organises visits from historians and academics.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in lessons from the Auschwitz Programme.

What will I study?

The subject content for A-Level History is divided into four components:

Unit 1: British period study and enquiry

Unit 2: Non-British period study

Unit 3: Thematic study and historical interpretations

Unit 4: Topic based essay (coursework)

Unit 1: Britain 1930-1997

1 hour 30 minute paper; 50 marks; 25% of total A-Level

These units are assessed in two parts: the enquiry and the period study, and thus the question paper has two sections:

Section A: Enquiry topic on Churchill, 1930-1951 – this is a source based topic covering reasons why Churchill was out of office between 1929-1939, Churchill as wartime prime minister, and international diplomacy from 1939-1951.

Section B: British Period Study, 1951-1997 – this topic will cover the reasons for Conservative domination 1951-1964, the Labour and Conservative governments of 1964 -1979, Thatcher and the end of Consensus and Britain's position in the world throughout the period.

Unit 2: Russia 1894–1941

1 hour paper; 30 marks; 15% of total A-Level

Learners will answer one two-part question from a choice of two.

This paper covers the rule of Tsar Nicholas II, the 1917 revolutions, the Civil War and Lenin and the rule of Stalin.

Unit 3: Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th Centuries

2 hour 30 minute paper; 80 marks; 40% of total A-Level

Assessment of units in this unit group is in two parts: the historical interpretations depth study and the thematic essay, and thus the question paper has two parts.

Section A: Thematic study – this will cover the complexities of popular culture in the Early Modern Period, the main reasons for the growth and decline in persecution of the witches, the persecuted and the responses of the authorities to witchcraft.

Section B: Depth Studies – you will study three depth studies; the Witchcraze in Southern Germany, Hopkins and the witch hunt of 1645-1647 (East Anglia) and the Salem witch trials.

Unit 4: Topic based essay (coursework)

Non-exam assessment; 40 marks; 20% of total A-Level

An extended essay of 3000-4000 words, arising from independent study and research on an aspect of modern Russian history