

History

Exam Board: Edexcel

We intend to continue to follow the Edexcel syllabus for History. The table below summarises the content of topics with an indication of the examination associated with each:

Qualifications	Route H: Democracies in change: Britain and the USA in the 20 th Century		Examinations
AS and A Level	<p><u>Paper 1</u></p> <p><u>Breadth study with interpretations</u></p> <p>Topic Studied: Britain Transformed, 1918-97</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The extent to which Britain was transformed politically, socially, economically and culturally in the years 1918–79. ▪ Responses to the challenges of war, fluctuations in the economy, technological advancement and the desire for greater social equality 	2hr 15 min written examination
	<p><u>Paper 2</u></p> <p><u>Depth Study</u></p> <p>Topic Studied: The USA, c1920–55: Boom, Bust and Recovery</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>A study in depth of economic and social change in the USA from the post-war boom of the 1920s, through depression, recovery and war, to the transformation of many aspects of US society in the years immediately after 1945.</p> <p>□</p>	1hr 30 min written examination
A level only	<p><u>Paper 3</u></p> <p><u>Themes in breadth with aspects in depth</u></p> <p>The British Experience of Warfare, c1790–1918</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The breadth and depth topic explores the British experience of war in different aspects of major overseas conflicts and the changing relationship between the state and the people. • This option also gives students the opportunity to explore political, social and economic dimensions of warfare and their part in generating pressure for change 	2hr 15 min written examination

	<p>Paper 4</p> <p><u>Coursework</u> Historical Enquiry</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The USA Boom Bust and Recovery 	<p>3000 – 4000 word essay which is teacher marked and externally moderated</p>
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Frequently asked questions

What GCSE grades do I need for History AS or A level?

You must have at least a C in History. As you will need to have strong literacy skills a good result in any other subject where there are “essay type” questions such as English, or another Humanities subject is also an advantage.

What skills do I need to do well?

- Research and information handling
- The ability to write analytical (as opposed to descriptive) essays and to reach substantiated conclusions
- Use a wide variety of historical evidence in order to reach conclusions on historical issues
- The confidence to participate in wide ranging discussions
- An awareness of the links between past historical developments and the events and issues of our own time

Independent Research

You must be willing to read! The History Department has a wide selection of readable and accessible books for each module. In Year 13 you will need to read widely (books, articles and the internet) in order to produce your piece of independently researched coursework.

What benefits will studying History bring in the future?

The main advantages are:

- History complements many subjects such as English, Geography and Sociology as well as Maths and Sciences.
- Studying History will allow you to develop a range of transferable skills and enable you to respond to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work
- History is recognised as a highly academic subject. It is respected by universities and employers alike. You don't have to become a History teacher! Students of History have become Presidents and Prime Ministers, heads of corporations and businesses, Head of MI5, members of the police force, lawyers and judges, social workers, soldiers and generals. In fact historians can become anything at all!

Jane Brown, Head of History