



AS/A2 HISTORY

Head of Department – Miss J. Stevens

EXAMINATION BOARD AND SYLLABUS: EDEXCEL.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Normally a grade B at GCSE, although candidates with no previous examination experience in History will be considered.

THE COURSE

AS Units

Unit 1

D3 Russia in Revolution, 1881-1924: From Autocracy to Dictatorship

D4 Stalin's Russia, 1924-53

(Written exam: 1 hour 20 mins, June)

Unit 2

D1 Britain and Ireland, 1867-1922

(Written exam: 1 hour 20 mins, June)

A2 Units

Unit 3

E2 A World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1944-90 (Written exam: 2 hours, June)

Unit 4

CW37 The Changing Nature of Warfare, c1845-1991 (Coursework: 4,000 word essay in two parts)

In AS and A2 History students study a wide-ranging set of topics around the unifying themes of power and conflict. Together, the units provide students with the opportunity to study the political, economic, social and ideological origins of conflict within and between nations and the ways that those with power have attempted to resolve that conflict and to meet the challenges of opposition.

Unit 1 on Russia from 1881-1953 looks at the challenges to Tsarist rule, the fall of the Tsar and the establishment of a new political order under the Bolsheviks. It goes on to analyse how the Communists sought to manage conflict within the USSR and to maintain their hold on power.

Unit 2 analyses the challenges to British rule in Ireland that grew out of the political, social, economic and religious conflicts in nineteenth-century Ireland. It discusses the British state's response to Irish demands for Home Rule and Independence and the ultimate emergence of a divided Ireland.

Unit 3 takes the study of power and conflict onto the international stage by analysing the origins and course of the Cold War in the political, ideological and economic conflict between the USA and the USSR, and later China.

Unit 4 sits very nicely alongside the study of the Cold War in Unit 3 as it covers the ultimate expression of the conflict over power: warfare. The focus here is the influence of new technology on warfare and the reasons why the nature of warfare changed during the period 1845-1991. Students will pursue a programme of guided independent study into a technological development or a military leader or a particular military event that interests them before coming to an overall perspective on the changing nature of warfare in the period 1845-1991.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GCSE & A LEVEL

A Level students should be able to build upon the skills developed by GCSE, particularly analytical and evidence-based skills. Smaller groups offer more potential for discussion.

ORGANISATION OF WORK

Students will be expected to do background reading in preparation for lessons, and maintain an orderly folder. Written essay and document work will be set. Teaching will be split between two teachers to correspond to the differing module content.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

History will link well with almost any other subject. It is a recognised gateway to a wide range of other disciplines (such as Law) at University.