

Edexcel A Level History

Why study History?

History is a subject that really comes into its own at A Level with the chance to pursue a course of study that will develop your skills in research and how to construct an argument. Through looking back at past events you will gain a greater appreciation of how we find ourselves living in the world we do today. You will develop a political awareness as well as an understanding of economics and how they have affected the social climate of various countries.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in History.

Grade 6 in English Language if GCSE History was not taken.

What will I study?

Option 1F: In search of the American Dream: the USA, 1917–96 and Paper 2, Option 2F.1: India, c1914–48: the road to independence. The options in Route F are linked by the common theme of a search for rights, freedoms and greater equality during the twentieth century. In the USA, the quest for political, social and economic advancement looked mainly to reform existing structures. In India this quest led to more radical outcomes, bringing an end to imperial rule in India. Studying two different countries allows students to develop a greater understanding of both similarities and differences in the search for greater rights, freedoms and equality in the twentieth century world.

Unit 3: Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939 Together, the breadth and depth topics explore the ways in which the British state gradually, and not always successfully, became involved in taking on responsibility for people's health and welfare. This happened in reaction to a rapidly industrialising society, where thousands of people lived out their domestic and working lives in close proximity. The scale of the problem posed a question that is still asked today: where does responsibility for health and welfare lie – with the individual or with society.

Unit 4: This is a coursework component. The purpose of this coursework is to enable students to develop skills in the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of history in a chosen question, problem or issue as part of an independently researched assignment. Students will be required to form a critical view based on relevant reading on the question, problem or issue. They will also be specifically required to analyse, explain and evaluate the interpretations of three historians.

You will enjoy this course if...

You love reading and writing and enjoy learning about the wider social, cultural and philosophical ideas which emerge from History.

How will my work be assessed?

The qualification is linear. Students will sit their exams at the end of their A level course.

- Unit 1 F, Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes, and Students answer three questions: answer one question from each section A, B & C.
- Unit 2 F, Written examination, lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. Students answer two questions: answer one question from each section A, B & C.
- Unit 3, 34.2: Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780– 1939, 2hours 15 minutes Students answer three questions: one from Section A, one from Section B and one from Section C.
- Unit 4, Coursework with students carrying out a personal enquiry based on a historical debate.