



Why study History?

History isn't a subject that's stuck in the past. Far from it. Historical events are what has shaped society worldwide into what it is today. This History course looks at a very turbulent and exciting period of History in both Britain and Europe. You will have the opportunity to study a number of fascinating events featuring civil wars, treason, revolution, massacres, and executions!

More generally, historians are trained to look for bias and prejudice in all the evidence they study. They know that human beings often have strong views on many subjects, which may affect the statements they make. There is no other subject that deals so well with sorting out what is useful and reliable evidence and what must be sifted out than history. Imagine believing everything you read in the papers, or believing every statement that politicians make! History helps you to make decisions about other people and to decide if you trust what they say.

Your History A Level will also enable you to develop skills which are essential for the modern world. These include communication – both oral and written – analysis, interpretation of events and opinions, research skills, selection and evaluation. History supports other specialist subjects, like English Language, Literature, and Philosophy. This course is suitable for students who have studied either of the History options at GCSE (and we will consider candidates who haven't).

What will you be learning?

There are three units which make up the AQA A Level History course:

Unit 1E: Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment 1682-1796

This breadth study looks at the emergence Russia as a major European power under Peter the Great and one of his scandalous successors, Catherine.

Unit 2B: The Wars of the Roses 1450-1499

Game of Thrones...this course has all the drama and skulduggery of the popular series. You will investigate the feud between the House of Lancaster and the House of York, discover the role of Warwick 'the Kingmaker', "false, fleeting, purged Clarence", Richard III and the Sun in Splendour, Edward IV, in wars that changed the future of England.

Unit 3: Candidates will be required to submit a Historical Investigation (coursework) based upon the topic **Revolutionary France**.

What are lessons like?

Some lessons will require you to work independently whilst others are based on collaborative research. You will use sources with the aim of interpreting and analysing information whilst also assessing reliability and value. You will have the opportunity to work independently on projects and to draw your own findings. There will also be occasions when you will be required to produce presentations of your work, either independently or as part of a group. You will also be encouraged to formulate your own ideas and viewpoints about the historical issues we cover in the form of written essays. Class discussions and debates will encourage you to defend your opinions and conclusions. As with GCSE, written communication forms an important part of A Level History.

What can it lead to?

Your A Level in History gives you knowledge and skills which will prepare you for higher education. It can lead to History courses at university but also to a huge range of others, such as Politics, Law, and Management.

Additionally, History A Level encourages the development of valuable skills which can be applied to virtually any career, including research, analysis and communication. Students who specialise in history can go on to become historical researchers, work in heritage organisations or become teachers. But history also supports other career paths, like journalism, politics, law, social work and public services.

If you enjoy history, it can lead you to a great future. Look at the likes of Sacha Baron Cohen, Monty Python's Michael Palin, Louis Theroux, and Gordon Brown among other history graduates!

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability, please contact M.Brooks@qes.org.uk or E.Robinson@qes.org.uk