

A-LEVEL HISTORY



WHY STUDY HISTORY AT A-LEVEL?

The Edexcel route H course focuses on the reasons for social, economic, cultural and political change, and of the effects of these changes in the modern and early modern periods.

By studying History, we develop our knowledge and understanding of our past, so we can assess where we are in the present. Studying History allows students to develop transferable skills, which include the ability to think critically, to evaluate primary sources and interpretations of the past, to build powerful arguments and communicate them effectively in class debates and in essays.

TOPICS STUDIED

TOPIC 1

Britain transformed 1918–97

Students will learn about the extent to which Britain was transformed politically, socially, economically and culturally in the years 1918–79.

TOPIC 2

The USA, 1955–92: conformity & challenge

Explores the USA in the years 1955–92, from post-1945 affluence, through racial and political protests in the 1960s, to the rise of right-wing groups in the 1980s and the development of bitter divisions between Democrats and Republicans.

TOPIC 3

The witch craze in Britain, Europe & North America, c1580–c1750

Explores the nature of the witch craze that took hold in the late sixteenth century and the changing attitudes to magic and sorcery that eventually contributed to its decline.

COURSEWORK

Enables 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.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

The course is assessed by a combination of examination (80%) and coursework (20%)

PAPER 1

Britain Transformed: 1918 - 1997

- Written exam: 2 hours and 15 minutes
- 30% of A-level

PAPER 2

The USA: 1955 - 1992, conformity & challenge

- Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 20% of A-level

PAPER 3

The witch craze in Britain, Europe & North America, c1580 - c1750

- Written exam: 2 hours and 15 minutes
- 30% of A-level

COURSEWORK

- 20% the final A-Level grade

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE History (where studied)

Grade 6 in GCSE English (Language/Literature)

CAREER PATHWAYS

The study of History develops 'transferable skills'. This means that someone with A-Level History can read a piece of information, analyse it, pick out the important points, assess whether it is biased or not, put together a written report and argue their case using the available evidence, for this reason, A-Level History is highly regarded by universities and employers. History can lead directly into careers in teaching, archival work, the heritage industry and journalism. It also has benefits for any job requiring the ability to write effectively or to research and process information in order to develop logical plans such as careers in law, the civil services and the TV, film and theatre industry.

IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

If you have a genuine curiosity about different periods of History and how events have shaped the world politically, economically and socially today then a History A-Level is for you. History A-Level suits students that enjoy a debate, who can make decisions and judgements, explain their ideas and can look at evidence in an analytical way.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact Miss Kay (Subject Leader for History) via email akay@lighthall.co.uk

READING LIST

- Brian P Levack, The Witchhunt in Early Modern Europe
- Andrew Marr, the making of modern Britain
- Tony Wright, British politics a very short introduction
- Thomas C Holt, The Civil Rights movement a very short introduction

