

A level

History

“Study the past if you would define the future” is a quotation from Confucius which strongly relates to A level History. The study of History will enhance your knowledge of the past and equip you with valuable skills which will aid you in life beyond post - 16 study.

Through investigation of the Wars of the Roses and the Crusades, you will examine historical themes including warfare, religion, individuals and politics in a way that will allow you to develop a wide range of skills to confidently analyse, interpret and comment upon the past.

Entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE History (if studied)
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Course breakdown

In Year 12 you will study a range of topics including:

- The Age of the Crusades, 1071 – 1149
- The Origins of Conflict and the First Crusade, 1071 – 1099
- The Foundation of New States and the Second Crusade, 1099 – 1149
- The Muslim Counter-Crusades and Crusader States, 1149 – 1187
- The Third and Fourth Crusades, 1187 – 1204
- The Wars of the Roses, 1450 – 1471
- The Origins of Conflict, 1450 – 1459
- The War of the Barons, 1459 – 1461
- The Triumph of the Yorkists, 1461 – 1471
- ‘The Sun in Splendour’: The Reign of Edward IV, 1471 – 1483
- The Downfall of the Yorkist Monarchy, 1483 – 1486
- The End of the Yorkist Dynasty, 1486 – 1499

Non-exam Assessment (NEA)

You will also complete a non-exam assessment which will consist of a written investigation of 3000 - 3500 words.

How will the course be assessed?

Although you will not be entered for a formal examination at the end of Year 12, you can expect to undertake a number of interim assessments so that you can keep track of your progress and your teacher can identify your strengths and those areas in which you might require further support and guidance. In addition to these ongoing assessments you will also have formal internal examinations where your performance will be used to consider suitability for progression into Year 13 and predicted grades for UCAS or other applications.

At the end of Year 13 you will be entered for the externally examined A level in History. These assessments will focus on the content and skills covered in both years of study and include submission of the non-exam assessment.

- Exam: The Age of the Crusades – 2.5 hours – 40% contribution to final mark

Where can the course lead?

A level History is recognised by universities as a strong academic subject and can help to provide access to further study in areas such as history, law, politics, humanities and archaeology.

Additionally, the skills learnt in History are transferable into employment and can lead to careers in teaching, law, finance, journalism and the heritage industry.



- Exam: The Wars of the Roses – 2.5 hours – 40% contribution to final mark
- Coursework: non-exam assessment – 20% contribution to final mark