



Department: History

Sixth Form Information Event 2021 FAQs

Question 1

Which examination board?

Answer

AQA

Question 2

What courses do we study?

Answer

1G: Challenge and Transformation, Britain c1851-1964

2R: The Cold War, c1945-1991

Question 3

Do I have to have a particular GCSE grade to do A Level History?

Answer

No, we are more interested in your passion for the subject and your willingness to work hard. We do not have a minimum grade requirement. You would need to talk to Mrs Jones or your teacher for further guidance.

Question 4

Do I need to have done GCSE History to do A Level?

Answer

No, again it is your passion for the subject and desire to study it that are of the greatest interest to us, not your previous performance in the subject.



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Question 5

Who will teach me?

Answer

We do not yet know is the answer to this question. You must not choose the subject on the basis of a teacher or being in a group with a friend. Group and teacher allocation are decided by the timetable and not by the Department so no promises can be made in this area.

Question 6

Is it all essays?

Answer

You will have two examination papers, one for each of your courses. Each will require you to answer a compulsory source question and two essays from a possible three. Although there are essays and they can seem daunting to begin with, try to see them as a way of showing what you know and understand. You are showcasing your expertise. Remember - the ability to write in a clear, coherent manner is a very valuable skill and one esteemed by employers.

Question 7

Is there coursework?

Answer

Yes, and this is an opportunity for you to go into the examination with up to 20% of the examination total under your belt. It takes the form of an extended essay based on your research into a question you select from an approved list. The questions relate to the nature and causes of wars in the period 1789-1905. We can support you with resources in this area of research. You can select questions on earlier periods and on different topics but teacher expertise and resources may not be as readily available. If you wanted to take this option it would need to be discussed with the Head of Department and the proposed question sent to AQA for approval.

Question 8

Is there a lot to learn?

Answer

Yes, but again you are supported in this and the booklets are specifically designed to embed as much learning as possible as you work through the course.

Question 9

How will I be taught?

Answer

You will be given the factual material and activities to embed the learning, much as at GCSE. You will not be expected to find the basic information yourself. Lessons will involve discussion and debate to embed your learning and very little being just "talked at." History is a subject which necessitates and thrives on this approach.

Question 10

Will I be expected to do a lot of independent reading?

Answer

Obviously, we hope you will want to watch supplementary documentaries and to read around the topics in order to deepen your understanding. However, this is not usually compulsory, although there may be recommendations or reading homework.

For your Non-Examined Assessment or coursework you will be required to carry out independent research but will be given support and guidance on how to approach this in a systematic and effective manner. We have a good library on the topic to make research easier.

Question 11

How big are the teaching groups?

Answer

This is very variable, depending on how many opt for our subject. We would strongly urge you to put History down, even if it is not a definite but a probable choice. This is because, when the timetable is written, if it looks like there are only enough students for one group that is what will be allocated. If a lot of you then change to History, as is often the case, we cannot easily accommodate you without group size becoming too large.

Question 12

Do many students go on to study History at university?

Answer

Yes they do! Last year 60% went on to study History as a single subject degree and 10% to study the subject it as part of a Joint Honours Degree.

Question 13

Are results good?

Answer

Yes, they are - due to the combined efforts of the History teachers and students. The History Department is in the top 18% in the country, with the majority of pupils attaining grade B and above. We have had only three boys attain less than a grade C since the introduction of the new A Level in 2015.