

WGSB6 A Level Options

History FAQ Information Sheet



Which exam board and courses are studied at A level?

AQA

What skills will studying History equip me with?

- How to effectively communicate complex ideas.
- The ability to research, analyse and evaluate information, both orally and in writing.
- The capacity to make substantiated judgements.
- Developing independent work skills.

Do I need a specific grade at GCSE to access A level?

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 need to talk to Mr Taylor or your teacher for further guidance.

How is the course structured and how will it be taught?

1G: Challenge and Transformation, Britain c1851-1964 (40%)

2R: The Cold War, c1945-1991 (40%)

NEA (20%)

Is there a coursework component?

Yes, there is a requirement for a 4,000-5,000 word essay on a subject of your choice, although we recommend you study a specialism of one of the teachers in the department. It is worth 20% of your A level mark.

Who teaches the course?

Mr Taylor teaches 1G. Mr Edwards and Mr Walker teach 2R.

How is the course resourced?

Students work in booklets which have been designed and refined through many years of teaching the course. This enables pupils to organise their work effectively and uncover where they have missed any learning.

How well do students achieve in History?

History is traditionally one of the most successful subjects at WGSB6. In the last 5 years we have averaged 40% of students achieving grades A* or A and 93% gaining A* to C.

Will I need to do a lot of independent study?

Yes, you will need to take ownership of your studies and read widely around the courses to maximise your grades. But 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.



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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 department library on the topic to make research easier.

What are typical A level subject choices alongside History?

Many subjects work well with History due to its analytical style and argumentative nature. Particularly Law, English Literature, Politics. It also helps to expand your understanding of the world today alongside Geography and Religious Studies.

Do I need to take another subject to support my study of History?

No.

What subject related extracurricular opportunities are offered at A level?

We have a series of historians who visit the school to discuss their research with pupils. We also enter the Historical Association's debating competition for A level students.

How might History help me in my next steps / university / career planning?

History is a highly rated subject no matter what path you choose. It shows to employers and universities you have a range of highly sought-after skills. The skills it gives you opens doors to many courses at university and beyond if you are currently unsure of your future path.

