



Bloxham School

History

A Level



Why choose this subject?



Beyond being genuinely interesting in its own right, History has much to offer in terms of developing students' critical skills and intellectual powers. It encourages independent thinking, provides students with an understanding of cause and effect, and gives them the confidence to form their own judgements. As such, it serves as ideal preparation for a range of degree courses.

The analytical skills fostered through the study of History at A Level ensure that it can complement most A Level courses - both Arts subjects and Maths and the Sciences.

The nature of the course



The course consists of four units, three of which are assessed by an examination in the summer of the Upper Sixth. The fourth is a 4,000 word coursework piece on a topic of the students own choosing which is submitted by Easter of the Upper Sixth year.

The specific units studied are:

- International Relations 1890-1941 (15% of overall mark, 1 hour paper)
- Britain 1930-97 (25% of overall mark, 1 hour 30 minute paper)
- Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England (40% of overall mark, 2 hour 30 minute paper)
- Coursework (20% of overall mark)

Examination structure



- International Relations 1890-1941
 - 1 x 10 mark question; 1 x 20 mark essay question.
- Britain 1930-97
 - 1 x 30 mark source question; 1 x 20 mark essay question.
- Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England
 - 1 x 30 mark interpretations question; 2 x 25 mark synoptic essays.

What do we expect from candidates?



A sensitivity to language, an interest in ideas and the ability to argue sensibly are the main requirements. There is no major difference between GCSE and A Level History in terms of the required skillset, but the options studied at A Level are significantly different, meaning it can also be started without having studied History at GCSE.

When a student has not studied the subject at GCSE, we would look at their abilities and confidence in traditional essay writing subjects such as English Literature.

With which subjects can it be combined?



History combines well with English, Languages, Politics, Economics and Geography. However, historical methodology involves the same logical and objective analysis as most subjects, and so would not be out of place in any combination.

In recent years, a number of students have combined History with A Levels in Maths and the Sciences.

Higher Education and Careers?



The study of History provides students with a range of transferable skills of relevance to almost all degree courses. Of those studying History at university, a significant number enter the legal profession, with History graduates also heavily represented in the fields of politics, publishing, journalism, media and writing.

History is the ideal preparation for almost any university degree course as it encourages individual research, analytical thinking, and critical evaluation.

Teaching Staff

- Mr R. Hudson (Head of Department)
- Mr D. Bowden
- Miss E. Carr

