



HISTORY

Examination Board: AQA
Specification: Advanced GCE 7042
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/spec-at-a-glance>

Why should I study History?

- Look at the subject content – it is both interesting and relevant!
- It fits very easily with both arts and sciences because, on the one hand, its subject matter deals with the range of human experience and, on the other hand, its skills are logical and analytical.
- History A Level is well regarded by universities and employers because it is academically rigorous and produces students who are literate and likely to be independent thinkers.

What will I learn about?

For more details go to: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level>

Unit 1: Breadth Study. The Tudors: England, 1485-1603

The study of developments over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations.

- **Part 1** of the course (Y12) will look at the years 1485-1547 with the restoration of the monarchy under Henry VII and Henry VIII, as well as at changes in power structure and the revolution in Church and State which took place in this period.
- **Part 2** of the course (Y13) will extend your studies up to 1603 with the governments of Edward, Mary and Elizabeth, focusing on continuing religious conflict, problems of the succession, relations with parliament and foreign affairs.

Unit 2: Depth Study. The Cold War, c1945-1991

The study in depth of a major historical development and associated primary evidence.

- **Part 1** of the course (Y12) will look at the way in which the Cold War emerged in the aftermath of the Second World War, its development in the 1950s and crises in Hungary, Berlin and Cuba which took the superpowers to the brink of nuclear war.
- **Part 2** of the course (Y13) will consider the impact of the Vietnam War, US relations with China and attempts to reach arms agreements in the 1970s. We will look at the role of Reagan, Thatcher and Gorbachev in bringing about an end to the Cold War by 1991.

Unit 3: Historical Investigation

Russia, 1855-1953: From Tsars to Commissars

Following a taught overview course in the summer of Year 12, you will identify a question of your choice based on a historical issue or development within this period that has been subject to differing interpretations. We have a vast range of resources on Russia in the school library which you can use for your research. Examples of possible approaches:

- A broad issue and related question which analyses its development, e.g. assessing the extent to which war was an agent of political change; or the failure of opposition groups to coordinate effectively across the period.
- A more specific issue in the context of approximately 100 years, for example comparing the leadership styles of the Tsars with Lenin and Stalin – did one autocracy just replace another?

Continued



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Your question will be approved by the exam board before you go on to independently research and write the assignment. This will be presented in the form of a piece of extended writing, drawing upon your investigation of sources (both primary and secondary) and the differing interpretations that have been placed on your chosen issue. As such, it is excellent preparation for university study!

How will I be taught?

The teaching is not primarily about the imparting of knowledge but much more concerned with analysis and understanding, together with the acquisition of the skills that make these things possible. Ultimately, you will be tested via written work but you will develop your ideas in a variety of other ways as well. Group work, both in preparation and presentation, is encouraged and discussion is of great importance. We are able to support this with varied textbook provision and a well-stocked section in the school library. We also ensure that pupils have the opportunity to attend conferences for revision and stimulation as appropriate.

Application beyond school:

History can lead to a wide range of attractive (and even lucrative!) careers. Frequently linked is Law (qualification requires further training), but also:

- Media work- print journalism, T.V. and radio presenting, research
- Libraries and museums (including the increasing number of historical attractions)
- The Civil Service-both local and national
- Personnel posts in business enterprises...

The list is endless - it includes anything that demands analytical thinking with the ability to express oneself effectively both orally and in writing.

Assessment Format:

Level	Component	Requirements	Duration	Marks
A Level	Paper 1 Breadth of Study	One compulsory source-based question. Choice of two from three essay questions.	2 hours 30 mins Year 13	80 40% of A Level
A Level	Paper 2 Depth Study	One compulsory source-based question. Choice of two from three essay questions.	2 hours 30 mins Year 13	80 40% of A Level
A Level	Paper 3 Historical investigation	3000 – 3500 words Must cover 100 years	Submitted spring of Year 13	40 20% of A Level

Are there any special requirements? A grade 9, 8 or 7 in GCSE History is required. You should have good written skills, a willingness to read widely and an ability to think critically.

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