



A Level

Specification: OCR

# HISTORY

## Contact:

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**FZ:** Mrs S Chadwick

## What will I study?

### The American Revolution 1740-1796

- What caused the Americans to rebel against English rule?
- Why did British MPs express support for the Revolutionaries in Parliament?
- How did the Thirteen Colonies defeat the English army?
- How effectively did George Washington make the switch from 'General' to 'President'?

### England 1900-1951

- What did people do about a world in which children starved in the streets of London?
- Why were women denied the vote and how did they fight this injustice?
- How did World War 1 change life in Britain forever?
- To what extent did the Liberal Party cause its own implosion?

### The Ascendancy of France 1610-1715

- How did the Bourbon dynasty deal with opposition to their rule in seventeenth century France?
- Does Cardinal Richelieu deserve the reputation he gained in the Musketeer films?
- How far were the Kings of France absolute monarchs during the period during the seventeenth century?
- How successful was Louis XIV in using the art and architecture to promote his image of the Sun King?
- Did Louis XIV live up to his billing as 'the most Catholic Majesty'?

### Coursework: independent choice

- Your choice of historical investigation topic.
- Independent investigation, drawing on sources, interpretation and your own areas of interest.
- Skills-based support from staff whilst you investigate an historical debate.

Furthermore, because we give you an independent choice for your coursework, in building the investigation skills for this you will cover a wide range of topics in history including:

- Was King John bad, mad and dangerous to know?
- Were child labourers in Victorian factories really treated badly?

- Who deserves the credit for abolishing slavery? And many other topics, including the one you choose for your major investigation.

## How will I be assessed?

- 80% of the course is assessed through written examinations sat at the end of year 13:
- Unit 1: British History paper, 25% of A Level
- Unit 2: Non-British History paper, 15% of A level
- Unit 3: Thematic Study and Historical Interpretations paper, 40% of A Level
- The papers include a mixture of essay types including sources, interpretations and judgement.
- 20% of the course is assessed through the submission of a 4,000 word independent investigation, completed by April of Year 13.

## How will I learn?

Just like in GCSE - the key skills are analysing material (facts, sources, events), explaining historical change and continuity and reaching your own judgements based on the evidence. Key teaching tools include articles, books, lectures and essays.

However, these skills can also be developed in a variety of creative ways including: role plays, decision-making activities, narrative accounts (photo stories, videos), and using a range of other tools such as documentaries, trips and debate. We will make use of all of these throughout the course.

## What skills will I need?

- Love of reading
- Willingness to ask questions and participate in class discussions
- Ability to write coherently, with strong literacy skills
- Enjoyment of finding out about past civilizations and cultures
- Ability to analyse information critically

## Careers & Progression

History is widely valued as a subject that teaches critical thinking, understanding of the world today, how to structure arguments and ideas and how to understand people and their behaviour.

It is also highly valued in careers that build on these skills such as law, journalism, politics, teaching.