

A-level History

Board and Specification: **AQA 7042**
Key Stage 5 Coordinator: **A Kelly** (a.kelly@cwlc.email)

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in GCSE History if studied.
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature and/or English Language

What skills are required of students?

- Good levels of literacy and to be able to undertake independent research
- You should be able to structure your arguments with the application of wider reading outside of normal lessons.
- The ability to write essays and structure coherent arguments.
- People who are curious and seek to find knowledge because knowledge is power

Course Outline:

Over the duration of the A-level history course, you will cover 200 years of history with an element that focuses on British history. The courses reflect the society we live in – the British component explains the country we live in whilst the Russian unit helps explain the Cold War and gives a brief insight into why Putin invaded Ukraine. Finally, our independent study looks at the persecution of women and gives some voice to those forgotten and abused by those in power with research into the witch craze in Britain and Europe during the 16th and 17th century.

Modules titles and codes:

1F – Industrialisation and People: Britain c1783-1885

- Pressure for Change 1783-1812 – British political system and pressure for change, economic development, social developments pressure on government and condition of Britain by 1812.
- Government and a changing society 1812-1832 - Government and economic reform demand for democracy.
- Political change and social reform 1832-1846 – Chartism, Anti-Poor Law, working class movements and economic developments.
- Economy, Society and Politics 1846-1885 – Pressure for change and social campaigns, public health, political and social change by 1885.

2N – Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-53.

- Dissent and Revolution 1917 – condition of Russia before the February revolution, causes of revolution, Tsar's abdication and establishment of the Provisional Government. Rise of Lenin and the Bolshevik party. October Revolution causes and consequences.
- Bolshevik Consolidation 1918-1924 – Communist dictatorship, Red Terror and the Civil War.
- Stalin's rise to power 1924-29.
- Economy and society – mass terror, state propaganda, the Cult of Stalin, foreign policy and relations in Europe. Beginning of the Cold War.

Component 1: Breadth Study – British History

The study of significant historical developments over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations is assessed.

- Assessment consists of written exam: 2hour 30 minutes, three questions (one compulsory) 80 marks, 40% of A-level.
- Questions are in two sections: Section A – one compulsory question linked to historical interpretations (30 marks) Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)

Component 2: In-Depth Study – Russian History

The study in depth of a period of major historical change or development and associated primary evidence is assessed.

- Assessment consists of a written exam: 2hour 30 minutes, three questions (one compulsory) 80 marks, 40% of A-level.
- Questions are in two sections: Section A – one compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period (30 marks) Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)

Component 3: Historical Investigation - TBC

Historically, the personal study which takes the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years. Our current area of focus looks at Irish History and considers the Troubles and conflict which plagued the island of Ireland throughout its history. The course seeks to analyse who was responsible for delaying the peace process throughout the period 1893-1998. The A-Level team is investigating a potential shift towards Germany 1871 – 1991. This may happen during the 2026/7 academic year.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

Independent and group work
Debates
Reading

Research
Analysis
Essay writing and exam practice

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

English Literature and/or Language, Politics, Religious Education, Psychology, Sociology.

Why choose A-level History?

Studying History equips students with essential skills that are highly regarded by both universities and employers. These include:

- Independent and critical thinking
- The ability to analyse complex information
- Constructing clear, evidence-based arguments
- Making informed and balanced judgements

As a result, History is not only an excellent preparation for degree-level study, but also a strong foundation for a wide variety of future careers.

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

An A-level in History is widely respected by universities and is accepted for entry onto a broad range of degree courses. It is particularly valuable for subjects such as Law, Politics, Education, English, Journalism, Medicine, History and Archaeology. However, its relevance goes far beyond these areas. History develops a wide range of transferable skills that are highly applicable to most university pathways.

