

# HUMANITIES

## History



**Examination Board:** OCR  
**Subject Leader(s):** Mr E Fu



### Course Structure

Unit	Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	A Level %
1	British History – The Early Tudors 1485-1558	90 minute exam	25%
2	International History – Russia 1894-1953: From Tsar to Dictator	90 minute exam	15%
3	Themes in History – Civil Rights in the USA (1865-1992)	2 hour 30 minute exam	40%
4	Personal Investigation	Coursework 1 essay of 3,000 words	20%

### What does the course involve?

The New A-Level is all about taking students on a journey through different periods and places in history. You are expected to cover at least two different centuries of history and produce a Personal Investigation that will form a stepping stone to university studies. The history department plan to take you across three different continents and centuries, after that it is up to your imagination where you go next.

#### Year One

##### **Unit 1 - The Early Tudors: The Tudor Dynasty (1485-1558)**

This family dominated British history for over a century and have left their mark for centuries to come. You start in the muddy battlefields of the Battle of Bosworth, as Henry VII defeats Richard III, then follow the greatest soap opera of British history as you study the life and loves of Henry VIII. You finish with an in-depth study of Henry VIII's children as they take the throne in turn and the country lurches from one crisis to another.

##### **Unit 2 - Russia 1894-1953: From Tsar to Dictator**

This is the fascinating story of revolutions, downfalls and dictatorships. This is one of the bloodiest periods of history ever studied. You will meet characters like Tsar Nicolas II, Rasputin, Lenin and Stalin and study the trials and tribulations of the largest country in the world.

#### Year Two

##### **Unit 3: Themes in History – Civil Rights in the USA (1865-1992)**

This unit rigorously looks at 130 years of American history 4 ways. We look at the development of rights for Black Americans, women, native American Indians and workers rights. This unit gives students a fantastic overview of American history and enables us to understand some of the key issues facing America today.

## Continued....

### Unit 4: Personal Investigation

This unit is unique to history. Students have the opportunity to explore ANY aspect of history you find interesting and engaging. As long as there is a historical debate around an issue you can study it. Academically rigorous this is an opportunity for pupils to develop their analytical and evaluative skills ready for the wider world. We always have a broad range of topics, from Hawaiian annexation to Napoleon, Tudor England, The Eastern front during World War 2 or Apartheid. The limit here is your imagination!

### Further Study/Employment Prospects

- History is traditionally seen as an asset for students interested in Law; Marketing; Advertising; Broadcasting; Journalism; Business Management & Consultancy, the "Caring Professions"; the Civil Service; Politics.
- More generally, it is highly valued by both employers and universities. The skills and abilities you will acquire in the study of history are numerous and it will certainly not close any career doors for you.
- It is a subject that blends well with other humanities, English and the arts. However, it could also be the subject that offers you a balance to your traditional maths and sciences and shows that you are a more rounded student.
- A-level history is one of the facilitating subjects that top universities are looking for.

### Entry Requirements

- Whilst you do not need a specific qualifying subject to enter history A-Level, good literacy skills are essential. Grade 5 or higher in English is highly recommended and/or a grade 5 in a humanities subject.
- It is more important that you have an interest in the way that the world has developed, enjoy investigation and discovery, look forward to debate and like putting across a well-argued case.
- Good literacy skills are essential, as you will be expected to read widely around the topic and write extended essay type answers.
- Above all, an interest in people and why they act like they do are the most important qualifications needed.