

OCR A LEVEL HISTORY

Course Content

- Course spanning 800 years of political, military, economic, social and religious history
- British, French and world history, together with free choice of coursework
- A mixture of medieval, early modern and modern history

Teaching

Divided between Elizabeth McCulloch (EMC) and Kitty Wilson (KVV)

College 1: Britain (KVV) and Genghis Khan and the Mongols (EMC)

College 2: Ascendancy of France (EMC & KVV) & coursework comprising independent research on a topic of debate of your choice (approved by OCR) with individual university-style supervision.

See list of recent question choices overleaf.

Assessment: 4 units comprising essays & unseen document questions

1 x 1 hour exam on Genghis Khan and the Mongols: 15%

1 x 1.5 hour exam on Britain: 25%

1 x 2.5 hour exam on France: 40%

1 x coursework (internally assessed / externally moderated) on a topic of your choice – 3,000 – 4,000 words approx.: 20%

Extra-curricular opportunities

- Historical Association lectures hosted at Bootham, tailored to our course.
- Residential visits for college historians to Paris – when Covid allows.
- Opportunity to participate in the Historical Association Great Debate competition.

A level combinations:

History combines well with any other subject. Equal numbers of students study History alongside other humanities, arts and sciences.

Further Education:

Some students every year go onto study History or a combination of History with other subjects. Recent History A level students have gone on to study History & Politics, History & International Relations, History & Philosophy, History with a foreign language or history related subjects such as Archaeology, History of Art or International Relations. Law is also a popular university choice for historians.

Careers:

Past A level history students have gone onto pursue careers ranging from training to be a doctor to managing an art gallery to being a lawyer to being in the civil service.

Recent History Coursework Titles

- Assess the view that the rise of Christianity was the main reason for the Fall of Rome.
- Assess the view that religious factors were the most significant cause of the First Crusade.
- Assess the view that French weakness was the main reason for the English victory at Agincourt.
- How far do you agree that the spread of information on Witches and Witchcraft was the main reason for the intensity of the persecution of witches in Early Modern Europe, 1450 - 1700?
- How important was the Ottoman army in the rise of the Ottoman Empire?
- Assess the view that Elizabeth I's foreign policy was the most important reason for the creation of the Spanish Armada.
- The 'tarnished' Golden Age (1715 – 1725): to what extent were pirates instruments of social and economic justice?"
- To what extent does Catherine the Great deserve her reputation as an enlightened despot?
- To what extent was French involvement in the US War of Independence responsible for the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789?
- Assess the view that the unrest in India in 1857 was motivated more by social and economic grievances than a desire for political change.
- To what extent was slavery responsible for the outbreak of the American Civil War?
- To what extent was the unsatisfactory outcome of the First Boer War responsible for the outbreak of the Second Boer War?
- Assess the view that nationalism was the most important cause of World War One.
- Assess the view that the actions of the WSPU were responsible for the delay in women obtaining the vote.
- How valid is the view that the work of women during World War 1 was the reason for them achieving the vote in 1918?
- To what extent was the First Ku Klux Klan 1865 – 1871 responsible for the development of the aims and views of the second Ku Klux Klan 1915-1944?
- To what extent was the battle of Gazala responsible for the outcome of the first battle of El Alamein?
- Assess the view that the Holocaust was the result of a predetermined plan by the Nazi regime.
- Assess the view that the German people were active and enthusiastic supporters of the Holocaust
- To what extent was the Soviet Union responsible for the outbreak of the Cold War?
- To what extent was Israel responsible for the outbreak of the 6 Day War?
- Assess the causes of the Nigerian Civil War.
- How significant was voodoo in establishing and cementing Francois Duvalier's rule in Haiti?
- To what extent was the Ford Dagenham strike responsible for the passing of the Equal Pay Act of 1970?
- To what extent was the Vietnam War lost because of the hostility of much of the American media?
- Assess the view that Pinochet's rule between 1973 and 1990 was merely a brutal dictatorship.
- How effective was Thatcher's handling of the Falklands crisis?
- To what extent was division over Europe responsible for the downfall of Margaret Thatcher?
- To what extent does Slobodan Milosevic deserve his reputation for causing the outbreak of civil war in Yugoslavia?