

A LEVEL HISTORY



Course description

Awarding Body: AQA

Examinations

1D Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702

2T The Crisis of Communism: The USSR and the Soviet Empire 1953-2000

Non Examined Assessment

The Middle East 1900-2000

Course content

Studying History at Newstead Wood School presents an exciting opportunity to study both early modern and C20th History. A Level students must take assessments in all three of the following components.

Paper 1: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period. Topics include the nature of the monarchy in the C17th, religious divisions, political disputes with Parliament, the personal rule and the descent into Civil War, Cromwell and the Protectorate, the role of ideology, the restoration of the monarchy and the Glorious Revolution, government under William and Mary and the condition of the monarchy by 1702.

Paper 2: The Crisis of Communism: The USSR and the Soviet Empire 1953-2000

This option provides the opportunity to study a period of major change in depth, focusing on key ideas, events and developments. Topics include De-Stalinisation and Soviet foreign policy during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the building of the Berlin Wall. Students will follow the stagnation and demise of the Soviet Union under the leadership of Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko and Gorbachev. In Year 13, students will look at the crisis in the Soviet Empire and life in the satellite states. Students will look at the political challenges in the Eastern bloc and the final revolutions of 1989 which created independent states of Eastern and Central Europe.

NEA - A 3000 word essay completed through independent study in Year 13 on a question related to the Middle East 1900-2000

Entry requirements

Grade 7, 8 or 9 at History GCSE

Future opportunities

A Level History is highly regarded by universities and employers and is particularly useful for those hoping to study Law, Journalism and the Media. It provides an excellent training in critical thought and the ability to write logically and analytically.

Students in Year 12 are invited to apply for positions as Academic Prefects and their role is to promote the subject across the school, mentor younger students, run revision sessions for Year 10 and Year 11 students, speak to parents at Open Evening and generally be ambassadors for the subject across all Key Stages.

Further information

Our results are consistently high and we are proud that so many students choose History as their subject of undergraduate study. Our department has been very successful in recent years in preparing students for studying History at Oxford or Cambridge universities.

100% of Year 12 students who opted to take AS History achieved grade A

82% of History students achieved grades A*-B at the end of Year 13.

This Autumn our students have gone on to study History at the following universities:
Oxford; Durham; Manchester; St Andrews; Leicester; Birmingham; Sussex.