

History FAQs

1. How much of GCSE History is coursework?

There is no coursework at GCSE History. 100% of your grade will be gained through exams.

2. How many exams are there?

You will sit two exams at the end of Year 11.

3. What are the exams like?

Paper 1 is two hours and is focussed on Studies in Depth. You will answer questions about 'The Elizabethan Age (1558-1603)' and 'The USA: A Nation of Contrasts (1910-29)'. Paper 2 is also two hours and is focussed on Studies in Breadth. You will answer questions about 'The Development of Germany (1919-1991)' and 'Changes in Crime and Punishment in Britain' (c. 500 to the present day)'.

4. Which teachers teach GCSE History?

There are five of us in the History department, who all teach GCSE classes. They are Mrs Rooks, Miss Pickard, Mr McGrath, Mr Sanderson and Miss Ryan.

5. Is there a lot of writing in GCSE History?

History is a written subject, so as well as discussion-based work, there will be written information to note down in lessons. Exam questions vary length from 4 marks to 16 marks, we provide lots of support to help you structure your exam answers.

6. Do I need to learn a lot of facts in GCSE History?

GCSE History is not just about learning 'facts' but about expressing ideas and making informed judgments. We study lots of different topics in GCSE History and have chosen areas which pupils enjoy studying. As well as learning key knowledge you will also learn how to analyse sources and interpretations. In addition, GCSE History will help you develop key skills such as causation (e.g. Why did England defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588?) and significance (e.g. What was the most significant factor for why the Nazis came to power in January 1933?).

7. That sounds interesting but how will I be supported in my learning?

As well as being taught by passionate History teachers who bring the subject alive, you will be given lots of resources to help you remember key facts and develop your key skills as an historian. We are always on the lookout for new and exciting ways to keep our lessons fresh and inspiring. There are also various revision books and online resources which we use to help you prepare for the exams.

8. OK but what's the point of studying History?

George Santayana said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Learning about the past helps us to make sense of the world we live in and helps us to avoid making the same mistakes that have already happened. Also, through the study of History you will develop key analytical and evaluative skills which employers highly value. It compliments many other subjects, particularly English, as well as the other Humanities subjects, Geography & RS. We are confident that you will enjoy GCSE History and become

passionate about the past and the exciting, strange and humbling experiences that our ancestors have lived through. We look forward to bringing the past alive for, and with, you.