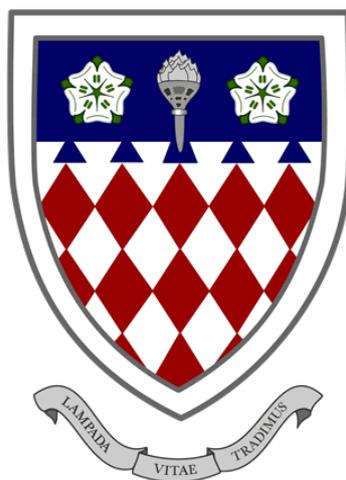


Spalding High School Sixth Form

A Level History



Why Choose A Level History?

A-Level History is a very challenging but extremely rewarding subject. It enables students to develop and refine skills in analysis, evaluation and critical thinking; in addition to building a significant body of knowledge about the past. A greater clarity of expression is also developed through the writing of extended pieces, including essays and coursework.

Students are challenged to learn a significant amount of content, but to think about it in a rigorous way to reach well-substantiated judgements about areas of debate and interpretation. Also, applying knowledge to contemporary source material and modern historical works in a rigorous way is key to the course, and skills in this area are also extended. All of this sounds like hard work, however the results of this is students who can problem solve effectively, identify key points with ease and justify decisions with lucidity and flair; as well as demonstrating a capacity for independent learning and resolve. As a result, History is well regarded when deciding on future progression into higher education or employment, and can open many doors.

What career paths might I follow with A Level History?

Common careers often associated with the study of History include:

Teaching

Law

Archaeology

Journalism

Economics and banking

Government and Administration

However, History develops skills which are useful (and often essential!) in a wide range of industries and professions, from Medicine to Accountancy. The study of History will be an asset wherever students wish to take their future.

What is the content of the course and how is it assessed?

Paper 1- Britain Transformed, 1918-97. A contemporary breadth study that considers social, cultural and political change. There is also a case study interpreting the impact of Margaret Thatcher. This unit is worth 30% of the A level and is assessed by a 2 hour 15 minute examination.

Paper 2- America c1920-55: Boom, Bust and Recovery. A shorter period of study, allowing students to go into greater detail on events such as Prohibition, the Great Depression and America during World War Two. This course also considers the analysis of contemporary sources in context. This unit is worth 20% of the A Level and is assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute examination.

Paper 3- Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603. A look at Tudor governance and administration over time combined with five case studies of significant rebellions. This course brings together essay writing and source analysis skills developed for Papers 1 & 2. This unit is worth 30% of the A-level and is assessed by a 2 hour 15 minute examination.

Coursework- A 4000 word essay looking at interpretations of a historical issue. Students are given a degree of choice over the topic they examine. This is worth 20% of the A-Level.

What do our students say about A Level History?

"I've found History hard, but if you stick at it and put in the effort then you get out what you deserve. The topics are really interesting and varied too and I've especially enjoyed looking at the Tudors in Year 13."

"It took me a while to find my feet with History, but the department really helped me understand how to improve and think through difficult topics and I'm now really glad that I chose to study it at A-Level."

"History isn't what I want to do at uni, but it has really helped me develop the skills I do need for my course."

"I've loved studying History. It's a lot of reading, but I like reading so it isn't a problem. My teachers have really helped me and supported me too."

Specification

Exam Board— Edexcel

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/history-2015.html>

Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 or above in History

If not studied previously at least GCSE Grade 5 in English
Language or English Literature

For further details please contact

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