



A Level History - Course Information

Exam Board - Edexcel - Route G & 35

What is A Level History?

History explores key events, people, and developments from the past. It involves analysing historical sources, interpreting different viewpoints, and constructing well-argued essays. The course is assessed through written exams and coursework, and it prepares students for university study and careers that require analytical and evaluative skills.

Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in Maths, grade 5 in English and grade 5 in History at GCSE

What units are studied?

Paper 1 - Germany and West Germany, 1918-89

Paper 2 - The Rise and Fall of Fascism in Italy, 1911-46

Paper 3 - The British Experience of Warfare, 1790-1918

Coursework - Exploring historical interpretations of the leading causes of the First World War.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is through **three written exams** at the end of Year 13, each testing knowledge, source analysis, essay writing and evaluation skills across all three units.

- **Paper 1:** Germany 2 hr 15 mins exam worth 30%- exam consists of 2 essay questions and a further question on interpretations. Marked out of 60.
- **Paper 2:** Italy 1 hr 15 mins exam worth 20%- exam consists of 1 essay and 1 source-based question. Marked out of 40.
- **Paper 3:** British Warfare worth 30%- three questions focusing on different aspects of the topic. Marked out of 60.
Coursework worth 20%- Based on historical interpretations. Marked out of 40.

What are lessons like?

History lessons are designed to engage students in exploring new and thought-provoking content while developing a deep understanding of key historical concepts. Lessons focus on analysing and interpreting historical evidence to form balanced and well-supported arguments, encouraging students to think critically about the past. Class discussions play a central role, allowing students to share perspectives, debate interpretations, and refine their understanding through dialogue. Beyond the classroom, students are encouraged to undertake wider reading, complemented by podcasts, independent research, and group collaboration. This combination of activities helps students build a broader and more nuanced appreciation of historical issues while strengthening their analytical and communication skills.

Where can History take you?

A History A Level can open the door to a wide range of rewarding career paths by developing valuable skills in research, analysis, communication, and critical thinking. Studying history teaches you how to evaluate evidence, understand complex issues, and build persuasive arguments—abilities that are highly sought after in fields such as law, journalism, politics, teaching, public relations, heritage and museum work, and the civil service. It also provides a strong foundation for further study in the humanities or social sciences at university. Beyond specific job roles, the transferable skills gained from a History A Level prepare you to adapt to many professional environments, making it an excellent choice for students who want flexibility and intellectual depth in their future careers.

For more information about the course, please see Miss McKnight