

HISTORY

SPECIFICATION

A Level Edexcel History 9H10

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

- To explore the actions and ideas of individuals and societies to explain how life is and how it has been shaped
- To explore and study past events, changes and societies in order to understand the present and make sense of the world around us
- To explore history to shape and consider our moral understanding, sense of identity and our sense of citizenship

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: Paper 1 Britain transformed, 1918–97

This option is a study of Britain as it emerged from the First World War and how it faced the challenges of Irish independence, working-class protest and votes for women. We will also explore the British response to the challenges of the twentieth century such as the General Strike (1926), the abdication crisis (1936), the Blitz (1940), the birth of the National Health Service (1948), the Suez Crisis (1956), the 'Swinging Sixties' and the election of the first woman Prime Minister (1979) to name just a few events.

Theme 1: A changing political and economic environment 1918–79

Theme 2: Creating a welfare state 1918–79

Theme 3: Society in transition 1918–79

Theme 4: The changing quality of life 1918–79

Interpretation: What impact did Thatcher's governments have on Britain 1979–97?

Unit 2: The USA, 1955 – 92 conformity and challenge.

This option comprises a study in depth of the USA in the years 1955–92, from post-1945 affluence, through racial and political protests in the 1960s, to the rise of right-wing groups in the 1980s and the development of bitter divisions between Democrats and Republicans.

Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the challenges posed to the American political system by popular protests and different styles of leadership, and the effects on society of widespread economic, social and cultural change.

Theme 1: Affluence and conformity 1955–63

Theme 2: Protest and reaction 1963–72

Theme 3: Social and political change 1973–80

Theme 4: Republican dominance and its opponents 1981–92

Unit 3: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform, c1780–1928

This option allows students to explore the relationship between authority and mass agitation in England, the struggle for greater representation in England, and the ways in which the interests and concerns of individuals in society could make themselves known. Within the primarily political focus, this option also gives students the opportunity to explore the economic and social contexts and their influence on developments and on the pressures for change.

Aspects in breadth: changes in representation in England 1780 – 1928.

1. Reform of Parliament 1780 - 1928
2. Changing influences in Parliament: The impact of parliamentary reform, 1780 - 1928.

Aspects in depth: Persecuting witches

- 3 Radical reformers, 1790 - 1819
- 4 Chartism 1838 - 1850
- 5 Contagious Diseases Act and the campaign for their repeal, 1862 - 86
- 6 The Women's Social and Political Union, 1903 - 14
- 7 Trades Union Militancy, 1915 - 27

Unit 4: Coursework: Independent Project

The purpose of this coursework is to enable students to develop skills in the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of history in a chosen question, problem or issue as part of an independently researched assignment.

The focus is on understanding the nature and purpose of the work of the historian. Students will be required to form a critical view based on relevant reading on the question, problem or issue. They will also be specifically required to analyse, explain and evaluate the interpretations of three historians.

METHODS OF STUDY

Studying History will allow students to explore their own ideas and reach conclusions. We will teach them how to think, rather than tell them what to think and, where possible, classes will take the form of seminar style discussions in which students will be expected to contribute. To do this effectively, students will need to learn how to analyse and evaluate, and how to construct clear and rational arguments to defend their point of view. Successful students will be those who can read critically and write convincingly.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be required to sit 3 exams in Year 13:

Unit 1: 30% 2 hours 15 mins

Unit 2: 20% 1 hour 30 mins

Unit 3: 30% 2 hours 15 mins
Coursework 20% 3 – 4000 words

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

Students will have the opportunity to participate in an overseas visit to the USA. Lecture trips to Manchester University are also a part of the course, as is the weekly Debate Club.

