

Why Study History?

History does not just suit you to a career as a History teacher! Although a History degree is not job specific, because history students have a wide range of transferable skills they can pursue a wide range of careers.

Many employers are looking for people who, in addition to a good educational achievement, are:

- articulate
- capable of thinking for themselves
- able to tackle problems intelligently

Learning History can equip you with skills to:

- research and assess material
- organise facts and develop arguments
- arrive at logical conclusions

What will this involve?

There is no specific requirement for prior learning, although many candidates will have already gained a knowledge and understanding, and have developed a range of historical skills of selected periods of history, through their study of History at GCSE.

Where a candidate has not previously taken a GCSE History qualification, it is anticipated potential candidates would have achieved a qualification such as a GCSE Grade C in English or Welsh or other appropriate qualification.

What skills can it help you to develop?

This AS/A level GCE specification encourages candidates to:

- develop your interest in and enthusiasm for History;
- acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity;
- build on your understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study;
- improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers;
- develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them;
- acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, of, for example, that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence;
- develop your use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills;
- make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past;
- organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements.

Unit 1 (AS) - PERIOD STUDY - GOVERNMENT, REBELLION AND SOCIETY IN WALES AND ENGLAND c.1485 -1603.

Establishing and maintaining the Tudor dynasty.

Protests, disorder and rebellions against the Tudors.

UNIT 2 (AS) - HISTORY IN DEPTH WEIMAR AND ITS CHALLENGES c.1918-1933

The problems faced by the Weimar Republic.

The rise of the Nazis.

UNIT 3 (A2) - BREADTH STUDIES - THE AMERICAN CENTURY c.1890-1990

The struggle for Civil Rights, c.1890-1990

Making of a superpower, c.1890-1990

UNIT 4 (A2) - HISTORY IN DEPTH - NAZI GERMANY c.1933-1945

Further developments in the Nazi control of Germany after 1933

The impact of Nazi racial, social and religious policies 1933-1945

The effectiveness of Nazi economic policy 1933-1945

Changing Nazi foreign policy and the Second World War 1933-1945

UNIT 5 (A2) - HISTORICAL INTERPRETATIONS

Non examination assessment (NEA)

Independent research task based on an agreed area of study

LEARNING ABOUT PEOPLE - In fact, history is very practical because it involves:

LEARNING ABOUT COUNTRIES, SOCIETIES AND CULTURES - how they interact, the motives and emotions that can tear people apart into rival factions or help them to work together with a common cause (useful knowledge for team-building at work).

LEARNING TO LOCATE AND SIFT FACTS - So many of today's conflicts and alliances have their roots in the past; how can you negotiate with, trade successfully with, or report on a country if you know nothing of its history.

To identify truth and recognise myth, propaganda and downright lies, useful in any aspect of life!)

PRESENTING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED IN A WAY THAT MAKES SENSE TO OTHERS - Whether in graphs, essays or illustrated reports - and having the confidence to defend your findings.

Where do I go from here?

Law, History and Journalism and a whole host of other subjects at degree level. The study of History is a highly valued subject amongst employers who look for independent study skills, the ability to articulate arguments and form opinions based on evidence and an understanding of the key issues.