



Gordon's School History Department

Introduction

The History department consists of six teachers, including the Head of Department. The department has two dedicated classrooms which each have an interactive whiteboard. History is very popular option at both GCSE and A Level, and examination results are consistently very strong. Many students choose to study History or a related academic discipline at university.

History in Years 7-9

At Key Stage 3, students study the following six themes in each year group:

Year 7: How was England shaped before 1066? Why was 1066 a year of crisis? How did the Norman Conquest change England? How important were the issues of toleration and power during the Middle Ages? What was the impact of the Reformation? Does Elizabeth I deserve to be seen as a great monarch?

Year 8: How did the struggle between monarchy and Parliament shape modern democracy? How did the transatlantic slave trade shape economies, societies, and resistance movements? How did the Industrial Revolution change society and people's lives? What were the causes and consequences of British imperial expansion? Why did the United States fight a civil war over slavery and unity? How did the Civil Rights Movement challenge inequality and inspire change?

Year 9: Why was the First World War significant? Did women "win" the right to vote in 1918? What were the causes of the Second World War? What was the most significant event of the Second World War? What was the Holocaust? Who were the significant individuals of the twentieth century?

History at GCSE and A Level

We use the AQA exam board at GCSE (specification 8145). For Paper 1: "Understanding the Modern World" students study "*America, 1920 – 1973*" and "*Conflict and Tension Between East and West, 1945 – 1972*". For Paper 2, "Shaping the Nation" students study "*Britain: Migration, Empires and People, c.790 to present day*", and "*Elizabethan England, c.1568-1603*".

At A Level we follow Route C of the Edexcel syllabus which is focused upon the theme of "Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe". The breadth study for Paper 1 is "*Britain from 1625-1701*" and the depth study for Paper 2 is "*Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924*". In the second year of A Level, students study "*Germany, 1871-1990: United, divided and reunited*". We also offer an independent investigation as the fourth part of the A Level for which students are required to research and produce a piece of original writing on a topic of their choice.

Extra-curricular activities

Each year, a variety of history-based activities take place. Year 9 are taken to the battlefields of the First World War in Belgium and northern France and the sixth form are given the opportunity to visit Berlin to complement their A Level studies. There are also opportunities for students to attend lectures by academic historians and revision conferences are organised for those in the exam years.

The History Department is an Associate member of The Prince's Teaching Institute and staff are given the opportunity to attend academically stimulating and challenging lecture days on a variety of topics.