



Wigston College

History A Level



Examination Board

AQA

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Grade 5 in History. If you have not studied this subject at GCSE level you will need GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.

What will I be studying?

Component 1: The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871-1991 (40% of the A-level)

This component will be taught throughout the two years of the course. As a breadth study, it will deal with issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence through the following key questions:

- How was Germany governed and how did political authority change and develop?
- How effective was opposition?
- How, and with what results, did the economy develop and change?
- What was the extent of social and cultural change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups, and how were they affected by developments?

Component 2: The Wars of the Roses, 1450-1499 (40% of the A-level)

This is a study in depth of a period in which the English monarchy suffered instability and the country was subjected to a range of political, economic and social pressures. It develops concepts such as authority, hierarchy, faction and legitimacy. It also encourages students to reflect on the sources of power within a state, causes of political breakdown and the impact of dynastic instability on the 'common people'. This component will be taught throughout the two years of the course.

Component 3: Historical Investigation (Non-Exam Assessment) (20% of A Level)

During the second year of the course, an independently researched Historical Investigation covering approximately 100 years will be produced based upon a development or issue which has been subject to different historical interpretations. This will be an opportunity to investigate a topic of choice, as long as it does not duplicate the content of components 1 and 2. Historical interpretations and contemporary sources will need to be identified, analysed and assessed.

How will I be studying?

This course will be taught by two experienced History teachers, covering one of the two main components (1&2) each. Lessons tend to have a seminar feel to them as the expectation will be for all students to have carried out prior reading and be able to contribute to discussion.

Activities will vary, but there will be an emphasis on recording information, and applying this to source analysis or extended written answers. Students will continue to develop the analytical and evaluative skills from their GCSE studies to regularly complete assignments based upon A Level questions, as well as having opportunity to reflect upon their own learning.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Written exam (2hrs 30mins). One question, assessing how convincing three interpretations are; and two essay questions from a choice of three. 80 marks and 40% of A Level.

Component 2: Written exam (2hrs 30mins). One question, assessing the value of three sources; and two essay questions from a choice of three. 80 marks and 40% of A Level.

Component 3: A written personal study of around 3,000 to 3,500 words to be completed within the Spring term of the second year. Internally assessed and standardised. Externally moderated by AQA.

Where Next?

The skills that are developed in History can be applied to many careers. History is a well-respected A Level and can lead to the study of a wide variety of subjects at University. It is particularly valued as a basis for the study of Law. History can also lead you into careers in Media, Civil Service, Government and Politics, Curatorship, Journalism, Teaching, Banking and Accountancy. A Level History involves the processing and analysis of large amounts of information and has even been known to support applications for subjects such as Medicine.