

History A Level (Edexcel)

Programme of Study:

Year 1

Paper 1: Russia 1917 -91: From Lenin to Yeltsin

- Creation of the communist government of the USSR
- Industrial and agricultural change
- Control of the people
- Social developments
- What explains the fall of the USSR?

Paper 2: The German Democratic Republic, 1949-90

- Establishing and consolidating communist rule in the GDR
- The development of the East German State
- Life in East Germany
- The growing crisis and collapse of communist rule in the GDR 1895-90

Year 2

Paper 3: Britain: Losing and Gaining an Empire, 1763-1914

- The changing nature and extent of trade
- The changing nature of the Royal Navy
- The loss of the American colonies
- The birth of British Australia
- Learning from past mistakes: Canada and the Durham Report
- Nearly losing and empire: The British in India
- The Nile Valley

Coursework:

- A 4,000-word essay on a historical topic of your choice. It must be something that historians disagree about.

Assessment

The course is assessed in three exams and one extended essay (Coursework).

Exam Overview:

Paper 1 USSR - 2 hours 15 minutes - 60 marks - 30% of total grade

Paper 2 GDR - 1 hour 45 minutes - 40 marks - 20% of total grade

Paper 3 British Empire - 2 hours 15 minutes - 60 marks - 30% of total grade

Coursework - Completed between July and January - 40 marks - 20% of total grade

Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a minimum of grade 6 in GCSE History. If students have not studied history we will expect them to have achieved highly in a humanities subject and have obtained a grade 6 in English.

Recommended Reading and Subject Enrichment

The main textbooks are:

Edexcel AS/A Level History: Communist states in the 20th Century - ISBN 9781447985273

Edexcel AS/A Level History: Britain: Losing and gaining an empire, 1763-1914 ISBN 9781447985341

However, there is a huge range of reading about these topics that will bring the History to life. Anna Funder's *Stasiland* or Oliver Fritz' *Iron Curtain Kid* are excellent introductions into life in the GDR.

Orlando Figes *A People's Tragedy* paints an extraordinary if rather bleak picture of the fall of the Tsar and the rise of communism. There will also be opportunities to visit Berlin and attend lectures lead by key university academics in London on some of the key areas we study.

Higher Education and Career Pathways

Law, Civil Service, Police, Academia, Journalism, Education, Graduate Management Schemes.

Complimentary Subjects

History is an academic subject which mixes well across the curriculum. In particular, it is complemented by English Literature, Politics, Sociology and Psychology.