



Gordon's Sixth Form

HISTORY

A LEVEL

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

This evening will possibly mark the first occasion that you have given any real thought to what you would like to do after your GCSEs.

We want to help you make the right choices at this important time of your life. In many respects, you are on the right track to doing just that simply by being here this evening.

Choosing your subjects will not be easy but, by including History as one of them, you will be making a statement about your desire to be successful and to have access to some of the best universities in the country.

History is a fascinating subject that will open doors for you both at university and in the wider world. So use this evening to get answers from the people who know, ask the staff and students of the History Department why you should join this dynamic and successful team.

WHY STUDY HISTORY AT GORDON'S?

Your Sixth Form choices are important. Getting it right at this point means that you are likely to get it right in the future. History is one of the most enjoyable, challenging and highly regarded subjects that you could opt to study when you stay on next year, not to mention the most interesting!

Choose wisely, choose History!

If you have enjoyed GCSE History then you will undoubtedly enjoy the subject at A Level. We are confident that learning about the past, whilst also looking at its context and relevance to the present, will offer you the chance to fulfill your academic potential.

Why study History?

For the sheer pleasure of it! For the confidence that you will gain and the skills you will acquire. For the love of the past and all that it encompasses. For the security of knowing that, with an A Level in History, you are well placed to access the best courses at the best universities, not just in the United Kingdom, but across the world!

THE LOWER SIXTH (YEAR 12)

This course has been carefully designed to offer you an accessible, interesting and challenging Year 12. Topics and skills that were developed at GCSE will be broadened and matured. New and interesting periods of history will be introduced to widen your already considerable historical knowledge.

The chosen topics will allow you to move away from the Twentieth Century and explore other periods of time that have been critical in developing the world we live in today.

The Exam

There are three examined topics for the Year 13 exam and these are part of 'The Revolutions' pathway These are:

- Britain 1625-1701– Conflict, Revolution and Settlement (30% of the A Level) **Year 12**
- Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924 (20% of the A Level) **Year 12**
- Germany 1870-1991 (30% of the A Level) **Year 13**

Both papers contain essay style answers and source interpretation questions. This variation within the style of examination allows you to diversify your skills and allows us to teach you in a more varied and engaging way. This use of original documentation and historical interpretations will also prove invaluable on many degree courses and is something you can highlight at a later date on university applications and at interviews.

THE UPPER SIXTH (YEAR 13)

The second year of the A Level course has been specifically chosen to complement the first and again follows a revolutionary pattern. You will build on the skills you have developed over the previous twelve months and use your knowledge and growing historical expertise to explore a wide and remarkably varied syllabus.



The topics covered offer an overview of a 100 year period in history which allows both a depth focus on aspects of the chosen country, as well as a breadth study across the entire 100 year period. The independent investigation/ coursework (20%) allows for students to become widely read scholars, choosing a chosen topic of their choice of following a more specific topic as advised by us on an annual basis. This is a unique opportunity for you to choose almost any topic within practically any period of history that interests you!

THE EXAM

At the end of Year 13 there are 3 exams:

Units 1 and 3 are 2hrs 15mins

Unit 2 is 1hr 30mins

Coursework unit to be completed in the first half of Year 13.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The History Department at Gordon's has had great success in the past and with your help this will only be the beginning.

Our results have been excellent in recent years. We have also seen our historians go on to study at some of the country's top universities including Oxford and Cambridge as well as respected international universities.

BUT WHAT DO THE STUDENTS THINK?

To get a true picture of History at A Level you have to listen to the voices of experience. Here are some of the things that our recent year 13 students had to say about their choice.

"The mixture of topics complement each other well and give you a much more rounded understanding."

"I've really enjoyed the course and know that the skills I've learnt will help me in the future."

HISTORY IN ACTION

Studying History at A Level allows students to experience many different teaching methods. One of the most interesting, and useful for university, is attending independently run seminars and lectures.

These are usually held in London and are one day events that allow students to experience not only excellent academic lecturing but also a small taster of what university style History could be like.

Gordon's History Department would encourage all students to take up the offer of attending these lectures as they represent an excellent revision opportunity as well as an enjoyable change of scenery! They also offer an invaluable opportunity to listen to chief examiners, university professors and key Historians who specialise in our examination topics.

HISTORY CAREERS

- Teaching
- Civil Service
- Historian
- Lawyer
- Media
- Accountancy
- Public Relations
- Marketing
- Archivist
- Journalism



CONTACT DETAILS

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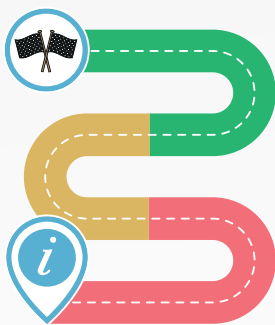
Exam Board

Edexcel

Specification

8HI0/ 9HI0

CURRICULUM MAP



COURSE DETAILS

EXAMINATION

The course is examined at end of Year 13.

Unit 1: Revolutions in Early Modern and Modern Europe (Y12)

For this Unit, students will study Britain, 1625-1701: Conflict, Revolution and Settlement. They will also study historical interpretations of the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89, in order to build on analytical and evaluative skills.

Unit 2: France in Revolution 1774-99 (Y12)

Within this Unit, students will study the causes and the course of the French Revolution, examining the consequences for the country and its people. They will gain an in-depth understanding of the challenges that faced the ancient regime, the monarchy and the people on the eve of revolution, resulting in a political, economic and social shift.

Unit 3: Germany 1871-1990: United, Divided and Reunited (Y13)

Students will study social, economic and political changes in Germany and West Germany during this time period. This Unit takes them through the unification of a new state, the defeat of the First World War, Nazi rule, the establishment of a new federal republic and finally, reunification. This option comprises two parts: aspects in breadth and aspects in depth.

Unit 4: Coursework: An Individual Investigation (Y13)

In this Unit, students are able to develop critical, analytical and evaluative skills in their own independently researched assignment, which will be 4,000 words in length. The main focus of this is to interpret and understand the work of the historian. From this, they are required to form an opinion based on applicable reading on their historical debate, and analyse, explain and evaluate the interpretations of three historians.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

EXAM PAPERS	% OF GCE	DETAILS
Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations	30%	Students answer three questions: one from Section A, B, and C. Section A and B includes breadth essay questions to assess understanding, of which students have two essay choices for each section. Section C is one compulsory question, designed to assess analytic and evaluative interpretations. This examination lasts 2 hours 15 minutes and is marked out of 60.
Paper 2: Depth Study	20%	Students answer two questions: one from Section A and one from Section B. Section A consists of a compulsory two-part question designed to assess the ability of the student to analyse and evaluate primary and/or contemporary source material. Section B has a choice of three essay questions that assess understanding. This examination lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes and is marked out of 40.
Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth	30%	Students answer three questions: one from Section A, one from Section B and one from Section C. Section A has one compulsory question that assesses the students' ability to analyse and evaluate primary/contemporary source material. Section B and C comprises a choice between two essay questions that assess understanding. This examination lasts 2 hours 15 minutes and is marked out of 60.
Coursework	20%	Students are required to research independently an enquiry into an historical area. They are assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations, and successfully communicate the findings. Students are advised to write between 3,500 and 4,000 words. This assignment is marked out of 40.



WIDER READING

- Anderson, A. An Introduction to Stuart Britain, Hodder (1999)
- Andress, D. The Terror: Civil War in the French Revolution, Abacus (2005)
- Berghahn, V.R. Imperial Germany 1871-1918: Economy, Society, Culture and Politics, Berhhahn Books (2005)



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