



Gordon's  
Sixth Form

# History

*A Level and AS 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) AS Level

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 two examined topics for the AS Exam and these are part of 'The Revolutions' pathway. These are:

- Britain 1625-1701– Conflict, Revolution and Settlement (30% of the A level)
- France in Revolution, 1774-99 (20% of the A Level)

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 A Level exam will also include these modules at the end of the two year course.

## The Upper Sixth (Year 13) A Level

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

- The two modules from AS will be re-examined at 2 hour 15 minutes each at A Level (as well as another module 2 hour 15 minutes) and the coursework.
- Germany 1871-1990 United, Disunited, Reunited (30% of the A Level)
- Coursework (20% of the A Level)

### 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, as you can see:

(A*-B)	81%	80%	91%
(A*-C)	100%	100%	100%

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
- Accountancy
- Public Relations
- Marketing
- Archivist
- Journalism
- Media



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