

### SUBJECT GUIDE:

**Exam Board:** AQA  
2 years - A Level

#### WHY CHOOSE HISTORY

*"Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it."*

History is a fascinating subject which enables us to arrive at a sense of our own identity, through a process of learning and understanding those events and individuals who played important roles in our past and shaped the world as we find it today.

#### HOW WE STUDY HISTORY

Classroom teaching, discussions and essay writing, audio/visual sources, practice how to answer and analysis of past exam papers.

#### LEARNING SKILLS REQUIRED

Students need to have developed the writing skills to enable them to express their ideas clearly and present interpretations of the past in a concise and comprehensive manner. An understanding of the framework in which history is studied and a broad knowledge of the chronology of the Modern British in International history will provide a solid foundation to these studies.

#### WHAT WE STUDY

**Component 1: Breadth Study: Industrialization and the People of Britain, c.1783-1885**

**Course code:** 1F British Option

**Exam weighting:** 40% of total A-level marks

This unit explores the changing nature of the British economy, politics and society during the industrial revolution, French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, Ireland, electoral reform and Empire from around 1783 to 1885.

The course will cover the Industrial Revolution, the Radical Movements, Chartism, the Anti-Corn Law League, the New Poor Law, Public Health, Crimean War, law and order as well as studying the governments of William Pitt, Lord Liverpool, the Duke of Wellington, Earl Grey, Sir Robert Peel, William Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli.

**Component 2: Depth Study: 2R The Cold War c.1945-1991**

**Course code:** 2R

**Exam weighting:** 40% of the total GCE A Level

The component covers the Cold War from 1945 to 1991. The first part of the depth study will include the following topics: the early years of the Cold War, Berlin Crises, Soviet control of Central Europe and the Balkans, the "Loss of China" the Korean War, Early Confrontation in Asia, Arms Race, Poland and Hungary 1956, Superpower Relations and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The second part of the depth study will cover Superpower relations, detente and arms control, the Vietnam War, Brezhnev Doctrine, the Second Cold War, impact of Mikhail Gorbachev, the collapse of Communism in the Peoples Democracies and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

### Component 3: Historical Investigation

The purpose of the Historical investigation is to enable students to develop the skills, knowledge and historical understanding acquired through the study of the examined components of the specification. Through undertaking the Historical investigation students will develop an enhanced understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work.

The Historical investigation contributes towards meeting the aims and objectives of the A-level specification. In particular it encourages students to:

- ask relevant and significant questions about the past and undertake research
- develop as independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers
- acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study
- organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding in a piece of sustained writing

Students will be required to submit a Historical investigation based on a development or issue which has been subject to different historical interpretations.

#### The Historical investigation must:

- be independently researched and written by the student
- be presented in the form of a piece of extended writing of between 3,000 and 3,500 words in length
- draw upon the student's investigation of sources (both primary and secondary) which relate to the development or issue chosen and the differing interpretations that have been placed on this
- place the issue to be investigated within a context of approximately 100 years
- be an issue which does not duplicate the content of Components 1 and 2

This unit assess student's abilities choosing, covering a period of one hundred years.

**Exam weighting:** 20% of the total A Level

### HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

**Component 1:** Breadth Study 40% of the total A Level mark, 2 Hour 30 minutes written paper, 80 marks

**Component 2:** Depth study 40% of the total A-level mark, 2 hour 30 minute written paper, 80 marks

**Component 3:** 20% of the total Advanced

### OTHER EXAM BOARDS AND OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Other boards and history options are available on request including British options the Tudors, the Stuarts, British political history 1951-2007. Other options available include Russia/Soviet Union 1855-1991, China 1900-1998, Germany 1870-1990.

### COURSE READING LIST

#### Oxford A Level History for AQA:

Industrialization and the People of Britain, c. 1783-1885 by Ailsa Fortune, ISBN 978-0-1983-5453-6

**Oxford A Level History for AQA:** The Cold War, c.1945-1991 by John Aldred, ISBN 978-0-1983-5461-1

**AQA AS/A-Level History:** The Cold War c.1945-1991, by Melanie Vance, Hodder Education, (2017), ISBN: 978-1-4718-7631-6

**AQA A-Level Coursework Workbook History:** Component 3: Historical Investigation (non-exam assessment) by Keith Milne, Hodder Education, (2018), ISBN: 978-1-5104-2352-7

### THE TEACHER

Mr. Tony Burrett MSc (Econ) has taught politics, history and international relations at A level and undergraduate level since the mid-1980s.