

BERLIN BRITISH SCHOOL

Course overview

History

Grade 6	
Mediaeval Realms	<p>This topic begins with the invasion of England in 1066 and covers the time period until the late 15th century and start of the Renaissance.</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the key skill of source analysis and will examine how dominant social and religious ideas and structures influenced people's thoughts and behaviour. We look at the Black Death pandemic to gain an insight into medical ideas of the era. In this term, students complete a research project and presentation on an aspect of Mediaeval life.</p>
The Renaissance and the Age of Discovery	<p>The key focus of this topic is examining how Renaissance philosophies differed from the way Medieval Europeans viewed the World.</p> <p>We zoom in on Italy and Florence, but we also make comparisons between key figures for change from this time period of multiple nationalities. Developing ideas within the disciplines of science, art, architecture, politics and philosophy are considered. The key skills students focus on are constructing timelines, justifying their selection of the most significant events and people and writing an argumentative essay.</p>
Exploration	<p>This topic aims to give students an overview of how exploration shaped the Western Europeans' view of the World, and how Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance ideas and inventions impacted exploration.</p> <p>Students will learn to separate truth from fiction regarding piracy, and will consider the themes of perspective and empathy. Source analysis is a key skill for this term. The topic also encompasses an introduction to the concept of Colonisation, which leads to the Grade 7 topics of the Slave Trade and Civil Rights movements.</p>

Grade 7	
What is History?	This topic aims to help the student understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.
Transatlantic Slave Trade	This topic aims to gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire' and the impact this had on the wider world. It will look at the transportation of slaves from Africa to the Americas.
Civil Rights Movement in the USA	This topic aims to help the learners understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, and frame historically-valid questions. It looks at how people, such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, as well as groups, such as the Black Panthers sought to improve the lives for Black Americans in the 20th century. We will go on to ponder how successful these protests were and what may still need to be done in modern times.
Imperialism	Students will explore the concept of imperialism, investigating its causes, effects, and enduring legacy. Students delve into the economic, political, and social causes propelling nations into the era of imperialism, including the Industrial Revolution, nationalism, and cultural/ racial superiority. The unit also focuses on the tangible effects of imperialism, such as economic exploitation, cultural clashes, and political upheavals. Case studies of specific imperialistic endeavours deepen understanding, analysing the complexities of British imperialism in India and China or Belgian imperialism in the Congo. As the unit progresses, attention shifts towards the lasting legacy of imperialism, examining its impact on modern geopolitics, economic structures, cultural diffusion, and ongoing global conflicts. The culmination involves student engagement through group projects, class discussions, and reflective essays, fostering critical thinking skills and an awareness of how historical events reverberate into contemporary society.

Grade 8

The Mongol Empire	The topic charts the rise of Genghis Khan from a boy named Temujin to leading the largest land empire in History. The unit will allow the students to build the necessary skills to prepare them for iGCSE. Mongol battle tactics and their effectiveness will be explored using various sources (necessary for Paper 2 iGCSE) and the students will be asked to write extended responses (necessary for Paper 1 iGCSE) which explain questions such as why the Mongols were such an effective fighting force and also what impact the Mongols had on the world.
World War One	This unit allows the student to gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history. We examine the causes and key events of the First World War. It will look at the impact of these events at a local, national and international level.
The Holocaust	We study this topic in the context of understanding how gradually increasing levels of persecution in a state can lead to horrific outcomes. This helps the student see the importance of studying History as a means of learning from our mistakes. We then consider why there have been other examples of genocide in other countries since this time.

IGCSE	
Were the peace treaties of 1919-1923 fair?	<p>The peace treaties of 1919–23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the roles of individuals such as Wilson, Clemenceau and Lloyd George in the peacemaking process – the impact of the treaties on the defeated countries – contemporary opinions about the treaties
To what extent was the League of Nations a success?	<p>The League of Nations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – strengths and weaknesses in its structure and organisation: work of the League’s agencies/ humanitarian work – successes and failures in peacekeeping during the 1920s – the impact of the world depression on the work of the League after 1929 – the failures of the League in the 1930s, including Manchuria and Abyssinia
Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The collapse of international order in the 1930s -The increasing militarism of Germany, Italy and Japan - Hitler’s foreign policy to 1939: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the Saar – remilitarisation of the Rhineland – involvement in the Spanish Civil War – Anschluss with Austria – appeasement – crises over Czechoslovakia and Poland – the outbreak of war
Who was to blame for the Cold War?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The origins of the Cold War: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the 1945 summit conferences and the breakdown of the US–Soviet alliance in 1945–46 – Soviet expansion into Eastern and Central Europe to 1948, and American reactions to it – the occupation of Germany and the Berlin Blockade – NATO and the Warsaw Pact
How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Events of the Cold War - Case studies of:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - American reactions to the Cuban revolution, including the missile crisis and its aftermath - American involvement in the Vietnam War, e.g. reasons for involvement, tactics/strategy, reasons for withdrawal - American reactions to North Korea's invasion of South Korea, involvement of the UN, course of the war to 1953
How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948- c.1989?	<p>Soviet power in Eastern Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - resistance to Soviet power in Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968) - the Berlin Wall - 'Solidarity' in Poland - Gorbachev and the collapse of Soviet control over Eastern Europe
Why did events in the Gulf matter, c. 1970-2000?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The rise to power of Saddam Hussein in Iraq -The rule of Saddam Hussein up to 2000, and the consequences of his rule for different groups in Iraq -The nature of the Shah's rule in Iran and the Iranian Revolution of 1979 -The causes and consequences of the Iran-Iraq War, 1980-88; Western involvement in the war -The causes, course and consequences of the Gulf War, 1990-91
Depth Study: Germany 1918 - 1945	<p>The depth study focuses on the Weimar Republic and whether it was doomed from the start. We then consider how Hitler was able to rise to power. Finally, we look at what life was like for Germans under the Nazi regime.</p>

IB Standard Level

The Move to Global War

This prescribed subject focuses on military expansion from 1931 to 1941. The first case study explores Japanese expansionism from 1931 to 1941, and the second case study explores German and Italian expansionism from 1933 to 1940. Discussion of domestic and ideological issues should be considered in terms of the extent to which they contributed to this expansion; for example, economic issues, such as the long-term impact of the Great Depression, should be assessed in terms of their role in shaping more aggressive foreign policy.

Authoritarian States

This topic focuses on exploring the conditions that facilitated the rise of authoritarian states in the 20th century, as well as the methods used by parties and leaders to take and maintain power. The topic explores the emergence, consolidation and maintenance of power, including the impact of the leaders' policies, both domestic and foreign, upon the maintenance of power.

Cold War: Superpower and tensions

The Cold War dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. This topic focuses on how superpower rivalries did not remain static but changed according to styles of leadership, strength of ideological beliefs,

	<p>economic factors and crises involving client states. The topic aims to promote an international perspective on the Cold War by requiring the study of Cold War leaders, countries and crises from more than one region of the world.</p>
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<p>IB Higher Level</p>	
<p>Italy (1815-1871) and Germany (1815-1890)</p>	<p>This section deals with the history of both Germany and Italy from 1815; in the case of Italy, from the Congress of Vienna to 1871, and in the case of Germany, up to 1890. There is consideration of the impact of the congress system on both Italy and Germany, and of the causes, events and consequences of revolutions from 1815–1849. There is also a focus on the emergence and growth of nationalism in the German states and the Italian peninsula, as well as the social, economic and political factors involved in the unification process.</p>
<p>Imperial Russia, Revolution and the Establishment of the Soviet Union (1855-1924)</p>	<p>This section deals with modernization and conservatism in tsarist Russia and the eventual collapse of the tsarist autocracy, as well as the revolutions of 1917, the Civil War and the rule of Lenin. There is a focus on the concepts of change and continuity, with examination and consideration of the social, economic and political factors that brought about change.</p>
<p>The Soviet Union and post Soviet Russia (1924-2000)</p>	<p>This section examines the consolidation of the Soviet state from 1924 and the methods applied to ensure its survival, growth and expansion inside and outside the borders of the Soviet Union. It explores the rise and nature of the rule of Stalin, Khrushchev,</p>

	<p>Brezhnev and their policies. East–West relations post-1945 in relation to Soviet aims and leadership should also be considered. Finally, the decline and collapse of the Soviet Union should be considered, as well as political and economic developments in post-Soviet Russia.</p>
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