

History A Level Bridging Course

Kineton High School

Exam board: OCR

'People and Power'

We explore the relationship between different groups of people and systems of power within society in a variety of historical contexts.

"Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; for human events ever resemble those of preceding times" – Niccolo Machiavelli



There are four modules in total for the A Level. You may choose any topic for your 4,000-word project as long as it is open to different historical interpretations.

The four modules that make up both A Level are:

- Unit 1 The Making of England, 871-1016
- Unit 2: Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany, 1919-1963
- Unit 3: Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603
- Unit 4: Independently researched topic based essay of 3,000-4,000 words

The course is assessed in three exams and one topic-based essay.

- The Making of England, 871-1016: 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)
- Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany, 1919-63: 1 hour (15%)
- Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603: 2 hours 30 minutes (40%)
- 4,000-word independently researched topic based essay (20%)

To prepare for the significant step-up from GCSE you must complete Tasks A-D before September. These tasks are broken into different skills that are relevant for your A Level in History. You can do them in any order – only A-C need handing in.

1. Evidence

Your use of evidence and understanding of how this is used to construct History will be essential for all aspects of the course.

Task A (Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany, 1919-63)

Create a fact-file on the background to Twentieth Century Germany by answering the following questions:

1. How and when was Germany unified?
2. What was Germany like before World War One?
3. Why did Germany sign the Armistice in 1918?
4. What impact did World War One have on Germany in terms of:
 - A) Economy
 - B) Politics
 - C) Society

Record a bibliography of sources used and include at least 5 sources of information.

Task B (Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany, 1919-63)

Read the following extract. What is the message of this source? Why would he be saying this? Do you trust him? How useful is this for an historian?

Erich Ludendorff, *My War Memories, 1914-1918* (1920)

Before all these events the world has stood astonished; it could not believe its eyes when it saw the collapse of this proud and mighty Germany, the terror of her foes. The Entente feared us even in our destruction, and could not take enough advantage of the opportunity to weaken us still further internally by propaganda and by imposing a helots' peace upon us.

Germany, by her own fault, has been brought low. She is no longer a great power; she is not even an independent State, Her present and future existence are in danger.

Out of this world struggle she comes weakened and diminished in every respect, and robbed of districts and peoples which have been hers for generations.

All delusions have vanished, mass suggestion begins to fail. We look into nothingness. Self-deception, empty words, the practice of trusting to others or to phantoms, lip courage, meaning vain promises for the future and weakness in the present; all these will never help us, as they have never helped us in the past.

Task C (The making of England, 871-1016)

- I. Find out about each of the bullet points and record a definition of each
- II. Write approx. 500-words on ***‘What was the Anglo-Saxon world like?’*** – you can interpret this question however you like, for example you could write about different kingdoms; clashes with Danes; the role of religion; who had influence etc...

Anglo-Saxon kingdoms

- Mercia
- Wessex
- Northumberland
- Kent
- East Anglia

Key themes

- Viking Raids on England
- Religion in Anglo-Saxon England
- Anglo-Saxon warfare
- Danelaw

Vikings/Danes

- Guthrum, King of East Anglia
- Swein Forkbeard
- King Cnut
- Raegnald I of York
- Eric Bloodaxe
- Olaf Guthfrithson

Monks and Abbesses

- Asser
- Hilda
- Bede
- Wilfred

Kings of Alba

- Donald II
- Constantine II

Anglo-Saxon kings

- Alfred the Great
- Edward the Elder
- Athelstan
- Edmund
- Eadred
- Edgar
- Edward the Martyr
- Aethelred

Other

- Aethelflaed

Task D (Wider engagement)

Engage with an aspect of the Year 12 course using any of the following, or your own idea:

- Rise of the Nazis (BBC Documentary)
- King Alfred and the Anglo Saxons (Documentary presented by Michael Wood)
- Jojo Rabbit (Hollywood film about the Nazis)
- The Last Kingdom (Fictional TV series set in Anglo-Saxon times)
- The Anglo-Saxons by Marc Morris (History book)
- Beyond the Wall by Katja Hoyer (History book)
- Destined to Witness: Growing up Black in Nazi Germany by Hans J. Massaquoi (History book)
- King Alfred's Daughter by David Stokes (History book)
- Beowulf, translation by Seamus Heaney (Poem)
- Berlin Alexanderplatz by Alfred Döblin (Novel)
- The British Museum and Sutton Hoo (Exhibition to visit)
- Imperial War Museum galleries on Second World War (Exhibition to visit)