Course Description

History

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The study of history at A level enables students to develop skills in critical analysis, communication and interpretation, making the subject a strong foundation for skills required in both other subjects and later life.

The Edexcel specification is separated into 4 components (three exams and one piece of coursework). The exams make up 80% of the qualification, with the Non-Examined Assessment being the final 20% of the overall grade. For Paper 1 and Paper 2 we will be following Route C: Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe. The options in Route C are linked by the theme of revolutions that span the early modern and modern periods. While the revolutionary upheavals in each country involved the overthrow of existing monarchies, the causes and the consequences of these revolutions differed in important ways. Students will study the causes and course of their chosen revolutions, and the outcome for the people of Britain and Russia. Studying two different countries allows students to develop a greater appreciation of the nature of revolutions and the similarities and contrasts between them.

Paper one: Britain, 1625 – 1701: conflict, revolution and settlement. This option comprises a study in breadth, in which students will learn about key features of monarchical and republican rule in Britain in the seventeenth century, set within the context of broader social, economic and religious change. The events of this period saw a decisive shift in the balance of power between crown and parliament. The focus of study is on developments and changes over a broad timescale and so the content is presented as themes spanning a significant duration: 1625–88. 30% of the overall grade.

Paper two: Russia in revolution, 1894 – 1924. This option comprises a study in depth of the causes, course and consolidation of the Russian Revolution of 1917, which had a momentous effect on twentieth-century Russia and throughout the modern world. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of revolutionary activity in Russia in the years 1894 to 1917, the response of successive governments to opposition to their rule, and the reasons for the successful consolidation of the revolution of October 1917 under Lenin and the Bolsheviks. 20% of the overall grade.

Paper three: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485 – 1603. This option comprises two parts: the Aspects in breadth focus on long-term changes and contextualise the Aspects in depth, which focus in detail on key episodes. Together, the breadth and depth topics explore the nature of rebellion and disorder under the Tudors and the way the various challenges were met, the nature of change in government over the period and the changing relationship between the Crown and key sections of society. The option enables students to explore the way in which, despite a shaky start, the Tudors were able to establish their dynasty as one of the most powerful England has seen. 30% of the overall grade.

Coursework. The purpose of this coursework is to enable students to develop skills in the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of history in a chosen question, problem or issue as part of an independently researched assignment. The focus is on understanding the nature and purpose of the work of the historian. Students will be required to form a critical view based on relevant reading on the question, problem or issue. They will also be specifically required to analyse, explain and evaluate the interpretations of three historians. 20% of the overall grade.

Entry Criteria

GCSE Grade 6 or above in History. Students who have not studied History at GCSE will be considered if they have a Grade 5 in English Language.

Exam Board: Edexcel / Peason. Specification link: Edexcel AS and A level History 2015 | Pearson qualifications
https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/History/2015/Specification%