

GCSE History

Examination Board: Edexcel Specification No: 2HA01

Why choose to study GCSE History?

Not only is History one of the most fascinating subjects around, it is also well respected by universities and employers alike. It is one of the subjects that make up English Baccalaureate and is important in developing key skills, such as the ability to analyse, think independently and write fluently.

History at GCSE is an academically rigorous subject. However, its content is attention grabbing; it stimulates debate and gives you a variety of skills. If you have an inquisitive mind, you are argumentative and overall interested in the periods that we study at GCSE, then History is the subject for you.

The History department at The Windsor Boys' School is highly regarded, renowned for producing some of the top results at GCSE across the whole school, thanks to some highly creative and innovative teaching methods.

The History department also runs a biannual trip to Berlin to visit many of places that are crucial in both Nazi Germany and the Cold War elements of the course

What will I learn?

Topics covered:

- Germany 1918-39
- Britain 1931-51
- The Cold War 1943-91
- Vietnam War 1960-75

How is GCSE History assessed?

There are four components to the assessment at GCSE. At the end of the course, candidates sit three written papers:

- Paper 1 (25% of final mark) Nazi Germany and the rise of Hitler, involving structured, essay type questions;
- Paper 2 (25%) Document analysis on Britain in the period before, during and after the Second World War;
- Paper 3 (25%) Short specific questions on aspects of the Cold War 1943-1991.
- Paper 4 (25%) is made up of a controlled assessment task on Vietnam that students will complete in the classroom.

It is worth noting that there are no 'tiered' papers – i.e. all students sit the same exam regardless of ability with the full range of grades available.

Where will GCSE History lead?

Course progression	Career opportunities
Many students continue studying History at AS and A2 after their GCSE Course. Some take it beyond this and study the subject at university.	History leads to any career where people need to show that ability to learn new things and research. Some common examples are within the legal system, business, acting and journalism.

What do students say about GCSE History?

"The topics are good, and the writing skills that are learnt are really important for other subjects like English and Geography".

"I like being able to express my own thoughts, it isn't about being right or wrong as long as you back up your opinions you can say what you think."