

History

Cambridge International
Examinations Syllabus
Code 9389

IGCSEs needed

Students should have at least a grade B in IGCSE History. Students that have not studied History at IGCSE may be considered by the Head of Department, if they have achieved at least an A grade in English Literature. Preferred subjects at IGCSE to support History A Level would include Geography and Economics.

Course Overview

History A Level enables students to develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human endeavour. It provides a greater knowledge and understanding of historical periods and themes, and a greater awareness of historical concepts, such as cause and consequence, change and continuity, similarity and difference, significance, and interpretations. Students will master an appreciation of the nature and diversity of historical sources available, and the methods used by historians. They will explore a variety of approaches to different aspects of history and different interpretations of historical issues, fostering the ability to think independently and make informed judgement on important topics. They will nurture a sense of empathy with people living in different places and at different times, and form a firm foundation for higher level study.

Syllabus Units/Topics

As there is a new specification for History A Level in 2021, candidates will be consulted on their preferred units. The options are as follows:

AS Level

European option: Modern Europe, 1750–1921

- France, 1774–1814
- The Industrial Revolution in Britain, 1750–1850
- Liberalism and nationalism in Germany, 1815–71
- The Russian Revolution, 1894–1921

OR

International option: Global History, 1870–1945

- Empire and the emergence of world powers, 1870–1919
- The League of Nations and international relations in the 1920s
- The League of Nations and international relations in the 1930s
- China and Japan, 1912–45

A2 Level The Holocaust AND

European option: Europe in the Interwar Years

- Mussolini's Italy, 1919–41
- Stalin's Russia, 1924–41
- Hitler's Germany, 1929–41
- Britain, 1919–39

OR

International Option: Global History, 1945–92

- US–Soviet relations during the Cold War, 1950–91
- The spread of communism in East and Southeast Asia, 1945–91
- Decolonisation, the Cold War and the UN in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1950–92
- Conflict in the Middle East, 1948–91

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Assessment Details

AS Paper One

Document Question: 1 hour 15 mins

40 marks

Externally assessed, 40% of the AS Level

AS Paper Two

Outline Study: 1 hour 45 mins

60 marks

Externally assessed, 60% of the AS Level

A Level Paper Three

Interpretation Question: 1 hour 15 mins

40 marks

Externally assessed, 20% of the A2 Level

A Level Paper Four

Depth Study: 1 hour 45 minutes

60 marks

Externally assessed, 30% of the A2 Level

Skills Developed

History is centred around the skills of analysis and evaluation. Students will learn how to recognise different perspectives, balance a range of factors, and formulate substantiated judgements on a range of important global issues. They will have to recall, select, and deploy, precise evidence to support arguments, as well as scrutinise the work of others, evaluating how the past has been interpreted and represented by academics in historiography. Students will develop vital analytical skills around the higher order concepts of causation, continuity, change, and significance, making synoptic links between different contexts.

Degree course this will lead to:

Many students go on to study valuable degrees in History, or take a Combined Honours degree, such as History and Economics, or History and Politics. History A Level is almost essential for a degree in Law from top universities. It also lends itself perfectly to degree courses in International Relations, or the world-renowned, PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics).

Ultimately, History is a facilitating subject, and therefore valued by all universities as a challenging A Level that equips learners with a range of valuable skills in any discipline. Indeed, it is even in demand by some universities for Medicine degrees, as it showcases a more diverse range of skills from the applicant.

Other subjects include Archaeology, Anthropology, Palaeontology, Classics, Philosophy, Sociology, Liberal Arts, Education, Media, Broadcasting, Cultural Studies, Journalism, Economics and Business, Art History, English Literature, Geography, Psychology, and Drama.