

History



A Level History at Southborough Sixth Form

'History is a kind of introduction to more interesting people than we can possibly meet in our restricted lives; let us not neglect the opportunity'

~ Dexter Perkins

Introduction

The History A-level course at Southborough is unusual in its philosophy of choosing a wide variety of topics and time periods in order for students to develop a broad historical knowledge and a wide variety of historical skills. The course maintains its coherence through the overall theme which is 'Power and protest; reform and revolution', and encourages students to reach historical judgements, not only through the study of particular historical events and periods, but by comparing different historical situations and periods as part of the process of making judgements and reaching conclusions.

Why choose A Level History?

The best reason for doing A-level History is that you are interested in it and that you enjoy learning about it. Studying History enables you to make decisions and judgements about the past and also to understand and interpret the way the world is today.

History continues to be a highly respected and regarded subject, both for the above reason, and because of the rigorous academic skills that it fosters through study of it. The study of History trains you to select relevant information, assess the validity of an argument, think and write logically, make informed judgements about controversial issues and present a well-ordered case backed by supporting evidence. The skill most developed by History is that of critical analysis and the ability to express ideas, knowledge and interpretations clearly and coherently.

The A Level History course will furthermore provide those applying for predominantly scientific courses with academic breadth.

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What can I do with A Level History?

The above academic skills will be of benefit in a wide variety of university degrees. The ability to argue well, to use appropriately selected supporting evidence, to analyse sources of information, to write coherently and to reach informed judgements will stand all students in good stead at university. They will also help equip you for a wide variety of careers. In the fields of management, law, administration, accountancy, journalism and marketing, an A-level in History is a highly valued asset. Many employers regard A-level History as an excellent training in the marshalling of arguments and in decision-making.

The Course



The course

Students complete two units in Year 12 and two further units in Year 13 to complete the full A-Level course.

Year 12

Unit 1:

Britain, 1930-1997

Unit 2:

The French Revolution and the Rule of Napoleon

Year 13

Unit 3:

Civil Rights in the USA, 1865-1992

Unit 4:

Historical Interpretations of the French Revolution

Entry Requirements

The entry requirements to study History at Southborough are a minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE History. If a student has not studied History at GCSE that is not a barrier to them taking the subject. We require a minimum of a Grade 5 in English language and/or Literature or another Humanities subject or modern foreign language.

Extra-Curricular

The department also runs lecture visits to Central London to listen to prominent academic historians lecture on their subject. This provides students with extra depth and breadth to support their A-level study and also offers students the chance to experience the study of history as it is done at university.

Further information

If you would like further information, please see Mr Needs, the Head of Humanities, in D8 or contact him directly via email:

ineeds@southborough.kingston.sch.uk

