

Workington Academy - Sixth Form

Subject: History

Why you should study History

AS and A Level History allows the development and acquisition of analytical and evaluative skills regarded as key by both employers, and places of further education. History gives you a depth and breadth of knowledge that allows you to successfully understand why and how the geo-political system of today evolved. Study includes the use of original source material and many secondary interpretations giving you the unique opportunity to simultaneously see a world no longer here through the eyes and ears of the time while indulging in the ever changing canon of historians' sentiments. Furthermore, you will have the chance to investigate your own favourite historical interest nurturing your independent research skills facilitating a thorough grounding for further higher level study.

Examination Board: OCR

Course Content

The course examines the profound and lasting impact of three nations on today's world together with the opportunity to research a topic of your choice.

Year 12:

- **Unit 1: *The Making of Georgian Britain 1678–c.1760* (British period study)**

The end of Charles II's reign is the starting point for this unit that allows students to understand how the key governmental institutions such as today's parliament and its political party system developed. The Glorious Revolution is studied showing how a small elite affected a huge change in British political thought leading to an explosion of Britain on the world scene. This unit is key in understanding how this country acts in the present.

- **Unit 2: *The American Revolution 1740-1796* (non-British period study)**

The development of British dominance in North America is studied looking at the causes and consequences of the Seven Years' War. The deterioration in relationships between the British and the colonists is then examined before entering into a study of the actual fighting. Finally, the issues of a new country developing are looked at in detail. This unit provides a key insight into American political thought and actions today.

Year 13:

- **Unit 3: *The Middle East 1908-2011: Ottomans to Arab Spring* (Thematic study)**

This unit focuses on the Middle East from the last years of the Ottoman Empire through to the current situation today. It looks at the impact of the First World War and the victorious allies in the division of the region on conflict and change. Themes are evaluated such as ethnicity, religion and outside powers. Individual countries such as Israel, Syria and Egypt have their history examined in the light of these themes. This unit provides students with a superb insight into today's issues and conflicts in the region and their impact on the wider world.

- **Unit 4: *Topic Based Essay***

This unit allows for a study of the student's choosing. This is a unique opportunity to delve into a period of history that you wish to personally explore. With the department's guidance an enquiry is conducted and written up. This greatly aids any student in the development of the correct study methods for higher level education at University or College.

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Assessment:

- **Unit 1: *The Making of Georgian Britain 1678–c.1760* (British period study)**

This unit is assessed at the end of year 12 by a 1 hour 30 minutes examination worth 50% of AS marks. There are two sections. One is based around source evaluation and the other is essay based.

At the end of Year 13 there is a 1 hour 30 minute examination for the full A Level on this topic counting for 25% of the A Level. Again there are two sections as per the AS Level.

- **Unit 2: *The American Revolution 1740-1796* (non-British period study)**

This unit is assessed at the end of Year 12 by a 1 hour 30 minutes examination worth 50% of AS marks. Students are required to answer an essay question and then a question based on an interpretation.

At the end of Year 13 there is a 1 hour examination for the full A Level on this topic counting for 15% of the A Level. This exam revolves around the evaluation of relative factors and an essay question.

Year 13:

- **Unit 3: *The Middle East 1908-2011: Ottomans to Arab Spring* (Thematic study)**

This unit is assessed at the end of Year 13 by a 2 hour 30 minutes examination counting for 40% of the A Level. This has two sections with the first involving the evaluation of historians' interpretations and the second section requiring the answering of an essay question focused on thematic change.

- **Unit 4: *Topic based essay***

This unit is assessed by a 3000 to 4000 word essay completed during Year 13 counting for 20% of the A Level. This is marked internally and then moderated by the Examination Board.

Skills Developed, Progression and Possible Future Careers

Studying AS and A Level History is a very sensible choice as it will develop your skills of analysis and evaluation. You will be able to demonstrate the ability to create and pursue a successful argument on paper, remember and organize significant amounts of knowledge, and provide you with a thorough understanding of why and how today's world operates. History at this level will obviously set you in good stead for the studying of History at University but it is also a key requirement of some courses such as Law. Not only does it help applications to arts based courses but it is seen a very beneficial subject to those pursuing scientific and engineering based futures. This is why History is one of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects.

Employers always rate this subject as it shows, knowledge, skill and understanding at a high level that can aid any business environment. Nearly every sector values this subject and the skills historians possess.