

# GCSE History

**Examination Board:**

Edexcel

**Director of Learning:**

Cerys Bird

Cerys.Bird@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk

**Why study History?****How will this subject help me?**

GCSE History will help you gain a much better understanding of the world's history. You will develop skills of research, analysis, and use of evidence, and learn to work independently and in a team.

As history trains us to think in terms of continuity and change, it prepares students to think in a flexible and thorough way, which will suit them well in the world of work. But that's not the only thing. Studying history also teaches us, for example, to test whether evidence is reliable. In a modern media and social media led world, these skills will serve our students far beyond the classroom.

As a student of History you will develop a critical eye, not just for the past but also current events. Lessons in History should build the foundations of skills in academic debate and research that will benefit a vast range of careers and future skill sets.

As such, History is a subject that is highly valued by employers and universities. If you enjoy reading, writing and finding out about the past and how it has shaped our lives then this subject is for you.

**Possible next steps (including careers)**

Future careers open to students of History include media, journalism, law, police service, marketing, public relations, research, management, and further academic study as well as teaching at both Primary and Secondary levels.

**Aptitudes needed**

Students will need critical reasoning and analytical skills, including the capacity for solving problems and thinking creatively. intellectual rigour and independence. The ability to construct an argument and communicate findings in a clear and persuasive manner, both orally and in writing.

**Topic Structure****During the two years of the course, you will be studying:**

Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.– you will learn about the history of crime, punishment and policing in Britain and how these features of life have changed over a 1000 year period, through the Middle Ages, Tudor & Stuart periods, and 19th & 20th Centuries. There will also be a special focus on Whitechapel at the end of the 19th Century.

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88 – you will learn the story of the Norman Conquest and how William the Conqueror established his rule in England.

Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941 - 1991 The Cold War is the title given to the period of tension between the two superpowers, the USA and the USSR, which dominated international relations for most of the second half of the 20th century.

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-1939 – you will learn about the challenges faced by Germany after World War One, as well as the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party and how they controlled and changed the lives of all in Germany.

## **Assessment Structure**

You will have to complete three written examinations, taken at the end of the Year 11:

Paper One: Crime and Punishment in Britain. 1 hour 20 minutes, 30% of the qualification

Paper Two: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England plus The Superpower relations & The Cold War. 1 hour and 50 minutes, 40 % of the qualification

Paper Three: Weimar & Nazi Germany. 1 hour and 30 minutes, 30% of the qualification.