



A-Level History

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Criteria:

- Grade 6 in History and English Literature and/or English Language

Overview

The History A-Level course consists of two main units, along with a coursework component:

Unit 1: The British Empire c.1857-1914

- This unit explores the expansion, impact, and eventual decline of the British Empire. Topics include how the empire grew, the response of indigenous people, and the consequences for the wider world.

Unit 2: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1953

- Students will study the establishment and practice of communism in Russia, focusing on Marxism, Leninism, Stalinism, ideological control, and dictatorship during the early Soviet period.

Coursework: Historical Enquiry

- An independent research project on a topic of the student's choice, subject to approval. This coursework allows students to explore historical questions, develop critical thinking skills, and present a sustained piece of writing.



Assessment

80% exam:

- Component 1:** The British Empire (1 hour 30 minutes exam)
- Component 2:** Revolution and Dictatorship in Russia (1 hour 30 minutes exam)

20% coursework:

- A 3,500–4,000 word historical enquiry based on a topic selected by the student.



Super-curricular resources

Useful websites:

- History Today - The World's Leading Serious History Magazine: (www.historytoday.com)
- The National Archives: (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
- Historical Association: (www.history.org.uk)
- History Blog: (andallthat.co.uk)
- The Library of Congress - Exhibitions - Revelations from the Russian Archives - Internal Workings of the Soviet Union: (www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/intn.html)



Reading List

While not mandatory, the following texts provide valuable background for the topics studied:

The British Empire

- The Scramble for Africa by M. Chamberlain
- The British Empire: A Very Short Introduction by A. Jackson
- The Lion's Share: A History of British Imperialism 1850-2011 by B. Porter
- Decolonisation: The British Experience Since 1945 by N. White

Revolution and Dictatorship, Russia

- The Russian Revolution by G. Darby
- The Modernisation of Russia 1856–1985 by J. Laver
- Stalin and Stalinism by M. McCauley
- Russia and the USSR by S. J. Lee



Complementary Subjects

History pairs well with a range of subjects, including:

- Government & Politics
- Mathematics
- Psychology
- Art
- Biology
- Law
- Physics



Career Progression

History provides a strong foundation for various careers, such as:

- Law**
- Education**
- Journalism**
- Government/Civil Service**
- Social Work**
- Business/Finance**

Students may also pursue degrees in history or related fields, preparing them for roles in research, policy, and the public sector.