

A-level History at Presdales



If the lives of England's first reigning queens intrigue you,

If you'd like to study plots and politics at the Tudor court,

If you wonder how and why Germany resented the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and why there was an increase in the number of dictatorships in Europe in the 1930s,

If you'd like to know more about autocracy, revolution and dictatorship in Russia and how the nature of rule affected its people,

If you would like to pursue a piece of independent research in an area of interest, with the support of and the framework provided by your History teachers,

If you enjoy reading and would like to develop your skills in critical thinking and academic discussion, analysing historical debate and formulating your own arguments succinctly,

If you would like to learn about the motivations of leaders from the past and understand why this influences decision-making in the modern world today.

...History A- Level is for you!

Unit 1 England 1558-1603: mid-Tudor crises and Elizabethan England



Henry VIII's three children all ruled after him, in challenging circumstances. We explore how Edward, as a young boy, and Mary, as England's first ruling queen, attempted to assert their authority and see through ambitious programmes of religious change, while fending off foreign threats and dealing with social and economic problems in England. Is it fair to characterise their reigns as a period of crisis?

Elizabeth I has enjoyed a much better reputation, as 'Gloriana' and 'Good Queen Bess' to her sister's 'Bloody Mary'. We study how far she was able to stabilise religious tensions, and to assert her authority despite her gender, the lack of an heir, pressure to marry, plots against her life involving her cousin Mary, Queen of Scots, and the threat of Spanish invasion. Was she as successful as her iconic portraits imply, or was she constantly insecure?

Exam: one sources question, and one essay question.

Unit 2 International Relations 1890-1941

This exciting course examines how countries interacted with each-other over a 50 year period. Building on knowledge from previous years, we explore the causes of the First World War and learn how countries negotiated the peace settlement at Versailles in 1919. Was the 1920s a period of reconciliation? The 1930s was a turbulent time with countries having to deal with the consequences of the Great Depression, the rise of dictators in Europe and the appeasers seeking to avoid a global war from those countries pursuing aggressive foreign policies.



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

This course provides a deep understanding of international relations in Europe during the interwar years and will complement and aid your knowledge of the Unit 3 Russia course.

Exam: one short question and one essay question.

Unit 3 Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964



A fascinating course which examines the themes relating to the nature of government from Tsarist Russia to the totalitarianism of Stalin. Other themes include the impact of dictatorial regimes on the economy and society of the Russian Empire and the USSR, the impact of war and revolution on the Russian Empire and the USSR and the wider issues affecting the nationalities and satellite states under Russian rule. Three depth studies enable you to learn more about specific debates affecting the following: Alexander II's domestic reforms, The Provisional Government and Khrushchev in power 1956-64.

Exam: one question on historical debate and two essays.

Unit 4 Historical Enquiry (coursework)

An opportunity to choose a particular topic of interest to you, and to explore it in detail. Guided by your teachers, you will research evidence in original sources and historians' interpretations, and construct your argument.



Coursework: independent research leading to an essay, up to 4000 words.

I was just wondering...

- I enjoyed GCSE History – will I enjoy A-level?
Yes! Each topic has lots of human interest, and builds on and complement the GCSE topics, to develop your understanding. There is more scope at A-level for thinking about and debating the topics in depth way, and for you to explore your own particular areas of interest and shape the course to be personal to you.
- I haven't done GCSE History – can I still do A-level?
Yes, you can. You will have relevant skills from other subjects such as English, and we can teach you the rest. Past students have done this and achieved A grades.
- Are there lots of essays to write?
Essay writing is a very valuable skill taught in A-level History. We will teach you techniques for planning and writing essays which develop the skills you already have. There are shorter answer questions too.

- Will A-level History help me to get a place at university?
Yes! The specification has been designed in close consultation with universities. It is a highly-respected qualification. Russell Group universities regard History as a 'facilitating' subject and look for it on applications for a wide range of different courses (not just History courses). With a good grade in History at A-level you will stand out as a strong candidate when applying for university, whatever subject you choose to study.

- I'm interested in politics and current affairs, should I do History or Politics?
Both! History and Politics complement each other, making an ideal combination. The History course will help you to understand how the modern British and American political systems have developed, and the Politics course will help you to understand the history better. Studying History enables you to make sense of current affairs.

- What jobs do people with qualifications in History go on to do?
History is an interesting and worthwhile subject which broadens your understanding of the contemporary world and your analytical skills. By the time you complete your A-level in History you will be able to write, argue, persuade, debate, process information, weigh up evidence, reach and present conclusions. These skills are highly prized in a very wide range of fields, including business, management, journalism and the media, law, politics and the civil service, economics, finance and accounting, the arts, tourism and heritage.

- Are there any trips?
The bi-annual trip to New York and Washington DC is particularly relevant for History students. Other trips are arranged depending on the group and the particular topics being studied or exhibitions available.

- I ♥ History. What can I do to make the most of this at 6th form?
A-level History provides scope to pursue your own interests around and in relation to the topics on the examination syllabus, especially in your choice of coursework. The History department appoint a team of History prefects in each year who promote History within the school. If you have creative ideas for clubs, would like to help in lower-school lessons, or have other History-related ideas you would like to pursue, this is your opportunity to make that happen!