History

ALevels havebeen reformed and newhistory courses offered since September 2015. In broad terms the ALevel course offersstudents a minimum of 20% British history but students must also study the history of more than one country or state. Courses must include topics from a chronological range of 200 years across the course and there is also the requirement to study 100 years change over time. Students take 4 modules; 3 examinations at the end of Year 13 and the submission of a piece of coursework.

Course Structure & Content

Paper 1 In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96 (Year 13) 30% of A Level
This option comprises a study in breadth, in which students will learn about the dramatic political, economic and social transformation of the USA in the twentieth century, an era that saw the USA challenged by the consequences of political, economic and social inequalities at home and of its involvement in international conflict. The focus of study is on developments and changes over a broad timescale and so the content is presented as themes spanning a significant duration: 1917-80. This option also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question, which is contextualised by, and runs on from, four themes: what impact the Reagan presidency had on the USA in the years 1981–96.

Paper 2 South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation' (Year 12) 20% of A Level
This option comprises a study in depth of South Africa during its transition from white minority rule to the free elections of 1994, a long, and at times, dramatic process in which South Africa changed from an apartheid state into a multi-racial democracy. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the creation and consolidation of the apartheid regime by the National Party and the response and methods used by their political opponents in the struggle to overthrow apartheid, as well social, economic and cultural changes that accompanied this process.

Paper 3 The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918 (Year 12) 30% of A Level
This option comprises two parts: the Aspects in breadth focus on long-term changes and contextualise the Aspects in depth, which focus in detail on key episodes. Together, the breadth and depth topics explore the British experience of war in different aspects of major overseas conflicts and the changing relationship between the state and the people as the government attempted to create an effective fighting machine and prepare the people for war. The wars studied are the French Wars, the Crimean War, the Second Boer War and World War One. Within the primarily military focus on the experience of warfare, this option also gives students the opportunity to explore its political, social and economic dimensions and their part in generating pressure for change.

Coursework
Students will also complete an independently researched enquiry of between 3,000 and 4,000 words on historical interpretations.

Entry Requirements
A grade 6 or above in History. If not taken, grade 6 in English Language, English Literature or a Humanities subject.

Progression
History is a solid academic basis for further study in a range of areas due to the academic rigour of the subject, and the skills historians develop in their studies. Students interested in pursuing courses and/or careers in journalism, the media, law, public services, business management, tourism, conservation, archaeology, teaching or museology would be well prepared for their future by studying history.