

HISTORY

Exam board: AQA

Assessment methods: 80% Exam, 20% coursework

Length of exams: 2 x 2h30 exams

Breakdown of units

1K – The Making of a Superpower: The USA 1865-1975 provides an overview of US history in the period 1865–1975 as it responded to a series of challenges both from outside and within the USA. Students will examine the role of individual presidents, the factors working for and against change, and how foreign and domestic policy changed to meet the various crises. There will be opportunities to consider interpretations of how the USA developed during this period and to engage in the various debates over key incidents in US history. The study of events between 1865 and 1975 will enable students to compare, explain and assess the nature, pace and extent of change and its impact on domestic and foreign policy.

2E – The English Revolution 1625-1660 promotes an understanding of change and continuity over approximately 50 years of British history. It provides for the study in depth of the challenges faced by those in authority in the years before, during and after the English Civil War. It explores concepts such as Divine Right; arbitrary government, Arminianism, and political and religious radicalism. It also encourages an in-depth understanding of how government works, arbitrary government and consensus, authority and opposition and issues of settlement. The unit allows students to study historical sources and assess their utility in relation to its historical context.

NEA Historical Investigation is the coursework unit. Students carry out individual research on an issue that has attracted considerable historical debate and are required to produce a piece of coursework of 3500 words. The piece must address a specific question and be contextualised within a period of 100 years. Students are also required to show their historical skills by including use of primary sources and a discussion of two historical interpretations in depth. The topic for the investigation is the collapse of Tsardom in Russia, focusing on the period 1825-1917.

Overlap with other subjects: As such a broad subject, History has natural cross over with many humanities, social sciences and arts, such as Economics, Government & Politics and Sociology. The discipline develops a critical understanding of events and interpretations and therefore fits well with other such subjects, like English Literature. As an essay-based subject, History also works well with other long-answer subjects reliant on analysis and evaluation.

Updated 19/6/18



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