A LEVEL HISTORY

The study of History helps us understand and explain the past and is an endlessly fascinating subject. The research, evaluation and analytical skills acquired are desirable in Higher Education and employment. Students will also develop their understanding of major world events.

Level 3 · A Level (or equivalent) · Penwith College

TOP COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

DEVELOP TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS | ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES | SMALL CLASS SIZES | PASSIONATE LECTURERS | 20% COURSEWORK

KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ENTHUSIASTIC STAFF

The History Department is friendly, supportive, experienced, ambitious and hardworking. Achievement in this subject relies heavily on your attendance, punctuality and commitment to learning, both independently and within lectures.

TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS

Modern History is a highly respected subject by universities and employers due to the transferrable skills gained on the A Level course, including research, planning, analysis, evaluation and essay writing. It also complements other subjects such as Politics, Sociology, Philosophy, English Literature, Geography, Law and Economics.

20% COURSEWORK - HISTORIAL INVESTIGATION

This suits students who don't always do themselves justice in exams, due to timing issues or stress. The NEA also gives students the opportunity to research an area of interest from the USA 1763-1865, such as the impact of slavery, westward expansion and the Presidency or the causes of the American Civil War.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

In Modern History, you will study the rise and fall of the British Empire 1857 – 1967. This provides an interesting contrast to the second module – the Cold War, 1945 – 1991. The third module is a Non-Examined Assessment on the USA 1763 – 1865, focussing on the period when the USA won its freedom from Britain then descended into Civil War. Whilst studying these modules, you will develop transferrable skills that will carry through to university and employment, particularly research, planning, and evaluation. History also complements many other A Level subjects such as Politics, Classical Civilisation, English Literature, Geography, Law and Economics.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

During the two years of A Level you will study the British Empire between 1857 and 1967 and The Cold War 1945-1991. We will be considering key questions such as how Britain came to assume such a vast Empire upon which the sun never set and why, having amassed such an immense Empire, Britain relinquished much of it in a 20 year period after the end of World War Two. You will study the key events in the expansion of the British Empire, the significance of individuals such as Cecil Rhodes and the impact of World War One and World War Two in the process of decolonisation. The rise and fall of the British Empire provides an interesting contrast to the other examined module – The Cold War, 1945-1991. You will look

at the origins of the ideological conflict between the United States and Soviet Union and the impact that key individuals such as Truman and Stalin had on the emerging conflict. You will examine how the Cold War developed in the 1950s and 1960s and consider the impact the escalating arms race had, as well as the increasingly global nature of the conflict. You will study the reasons for the improvement in relations during the period of détente and the reason for its collapse and subsequent deterioration of relations into the 'New Cold War' in the early 1980s. You will conclude your study with an examination of the fascinating period 1985-1991 which saw the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE ME?

An A Level in History is highly respected by universities as a facilitating subject. As such, it is desired for a very wide range of degree courses from Politics, Philosophy and Economics to Sports Education and Coaching. It is useful for a wide range of career choices including journalism, law, heritage, writing, diplomacy, and education.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above in with a Grade 5 in English. Students should be confident readers, able to write fluently and have a good factual recall. Students also need to be self-motivated and capable of carrying out independent research. Above all, students should be interested and willing to engage with the subject.

IMPORTANT

Course information can change. Please use the QR code below for the current assessment arrangements, entry requirements and start dates.

FOR THE LATEST COURSE INFORMATION

Scan for assessment arrangements, learner support, confirmed start dates and how to apply.