



## SUBJECT & QUALIFICATION: History

### Why is the study of History important?

History means, in its simplest form: the study of the past. However, it is also about how the past is a series of competing stories created by historians. The study of History is critically important, as everything which is happening around us has been influenced by, and is a direct result of, that which preceded it. In this way, the study of History provides us with a way to make sense of current affairs, and is therefore explicitly relevant to all of us.

Studying History will make you question the world around us and encourage you to develop a deeper understanding of why certain people act as they do. Looking at the history of the East and West, we can see why political tensions between the two have continued on after the end of the Cold War, and arguably remain today. For example, the conflict in Ukraine. As we examine the relationship between power and society through time, we see how democracy grew due to the actions of not just those in power, but the actions of ordinary people. When studying the history of Britain, we can see the effects of migration on our cultural identity; and how this is an issue which leads to considerable debate in our society. Indeed, it is evident that there are patterns in human behaviour which tend to repeat themselves. Whether it is the role of charismatic dictators like Hitler, or the significance of religion in human conflict, humans have a habit of ignoring contributing factors which can lead to wars and oppression. It is the role of History and the historian, to comment on such events and attempt to avoid it in the future.

From Year 7, you will have the exciting opportunity to study the history of our nation and how people's lives have shaped it. You will get the opportunity to learn about the influence that Britain has had on the world, and focus on times such as when it was referred to as "the workshop of the world"; a point in history where you could rightly claim that the "sun never set on the British Empire"; however, this achievement was built on the back of slavery. As well as examining Britain's influence on a global scale, you will have the opportunity to examine the influence that global events have had on the shaping of our nation. Across your study, you will be introduced to key historical concepts such as chronology, change and continuity, cause and consequence, and significance, and you will use these in lessons to draw conclusions, analyse trends and patterns in history and frame historically-valid questions. You will learn how to think deeply to effectively analyse; and then prioritise information. These critical skills will allow you to make informed decisions: a great life skill that all universities and employers will appreciate.

Across your study, you will explore key themes, such as the struggle between the Church and the monarchy, and the impact that this had not just on the ruling classes, but also on the lives of the ordinary people. You will examine how this struggle led to defining moments in our history like Henry VIII's break with the Roman Catholic Church, and how this caused later problems for monarchs such as Elizabeth I, as she faced the perilous consequences of religious tensions and conflict during her reign. Lessons will provide a wide range of opportunities for you to frame your own historical questions, and through the use of the methods of historical enquiry, will enable you to make supported judgements to answer them.

History is a subject which contains the best debates and the best arguments; you will examine key historical debates such as: why does Laurence Rees call the Nazis "a warning from history"? What is the legacy of the British Empire? And, how important is immigration in the development of Britain? Seems challenging - you are going to love it! History will not only broaden your mind, but equip you with the skills to understand and contribute positively to the world we live in.



### What skills will the study of History teach you?

You are a citizen of the world, which means you need to know about the various consequences of the decisions taken by the people of the past. This will provide you with a broad cultural awareness, and it will teach you to...

- Analyse issues and events
- Express your ideas both orally and in written form
- Put forward ideas and arguments in a concise manner
- Analyse sources to find out what we can learn about the past
- Evaluate how far we can trust different sources of information
- Reach explained conclusions that are based on a range of factual information
- Organise material in a logical and coherent way
- Understand difficulties that people from a range of different backgrounds have faced
- Be independent
- Pose questions and seek answers – A love of enquiry!

### What will you know and understand from your study of History?

- You will understand people and societies. The study of History allows us to investigate how people and societies behave. Information from the past must serve to explain why we, as people, behave as we do in society. Students need to develop some sense of how societies function, simply to run their own lives.
- You will understand modern events and current issues. For example, how prejudice such as racism and anti-Semitism is something that has developed, and therefore can be addressed. The past causes the present, and therefore, the future. Any time we try to find out why something happened, we have to look for factors that took shape earlier. For example, how WWI was not just caused by the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, but was rooted in long term causes such as empire building and militarism.
- Studying History will test and develop your own moral sense. People throughout history have been in situations and difficult circumstances whereby they have had to make hard choices. For example, was the USA justified in their decision to bomb Hiroshima?
- Studying History will give you the skills to understand and navigate the Modern world. You will learn how to assess sources (evidence from the time) in order to work out what you can learn from them, and what you can and cannot trust. This is a vital skill in a world where “fake news” and misinformation is at our fingertips.



### How can you deepen your understanding of History?

The History department at Outwood Academy Shafton offers lots of great opportunities for you to really engage with this exciting subject.

As part of the KS3 curriculum, we ensure that students are given the opportunity to study the history of their local area, in order for them to examine how national and international events have impacted their local society. For example, Y8 study the Reformation through the lens of Monk Bretton Priory, and students in Y9 analyse the causes of migration to Cudworth in the Industrial period. Giving students this opportunity allows them to undertake an enquiry that will equip them for the subsequent GCSE level study of the 'historic environment'; but it will also inspire the students with the knowledge that history does not just happen somewhere else; it happens in the places where they and their families live and work.

In KS4, we encourage students to attend enrichment opportunities to support their studies at GCSE. To support them further, we have several online platforms to further enhance what is offered within school. As well as homework and revision resources provided on Google Classroom, students can use [history.outwood.com](http://history.outwood.com) in order to test their recall of the key units they are studying at GCSE. This allows students to see their areas of weakness, so they can focus their revision further. To bring their study of GCSE History "to life" we are running a trip to the place where their Historical Environment is set: the battlefields of the Western Front. This is an exciting opportunity to not just learn more about these significant and intriguing places, but to try and get a sense of what it would have been like to have lived through difficult experiences.

### How are you assessed in History?

Assessment is a key part of learning, and students are assessed in a variety of ways. We have introduced a new assessment model at KS3, whereby students complete regular, small assessment activities. These activities focus on specific aspects of knowledge, concepts and skills in order for teachers to pinpoint areas for students to address. These frequent opportunities mean that students are continuously improving. This, alongside our ambitious curriculum, allows students to be the best historians that they can be.

### Key Assessment Objectives

*The key learning objectives for History are:*

LO1: To develop a chronological understanding of Britain and the wider world (of time periods as well as key events)

LO2: To understand key concepts and how they develop through time (e.g. empire)

LO3: To develop historical skills such as analysing sources and interpretations, and reaching reasoned judgements

LO4: To gain historical perspective by using second order concepts to understand the processes of history.



### How can History support your future?

History is offered at most prestigious universities either as a single honours or a joint honours subject studied alongside other disciplines e.g. History of Art, History and French, Archaeology, History and Philosophy, History and Politics, History and English. The very fact that you have been able to study History will help your future application, be it for colleges, universities, apprenticeships or employment. This is because skills such as being able to evaluate evidence to reach a decision and build an argument can be applied to many areas of life.

### Study of History can lead to a wide range of careers:

- Law
- Journalism
- Archivist
- Writer
- Media
- Public sector administration
- Politics
- Business and commerce
- Museum curator
- Teaching

### History Course Overview

Term	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Autumn 1	Khans and Caliphs: How similar were empires across the Medieval World?	How transformative were the new ideas of the Renaissance?	Why does Laurence Rees call the Nazis “a warning from history”?
Autumn 2		Part A: How did new ideas change who held power? Part B: What impact did new ideas have on people’s lives?	Part A: Nazi Germany Part B: The Holocaust
Spring 1		What is the legacy of the British Empire?	What do personal accounts from World War II reveal about the human cost of the war?
Spring 2	How did religion dominate life in Medieval England?		How did the Cold War affect the lives of ordinary people?
Summer 1		How revolutionary was the Industrial Revolution?	How has immigration changed Britain from 800 to today?
Summer 2		The “Great War”: what can we learn from the voices of WWI?	Coal and Community: What were the experiences of the Miners’ Strike in Barnsley?

