

History



Qualification: GCSE

Equivalent to: 1 GCSE (grade 9-1)

The History GCSE enables students to study a broad range of periods and within those periods to investigate local, national and international topics. Major events are studied, but also the impact of these events on various groups of people, countries and international affairs.

Course Content

1. America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality – A Period Study investigating significant issues and developments and the experiences of different groups of people.
2. Conflict and tension, 1918-1939 - Wider World Depth Study, focusing on the period between the two World Wars.
3. Britain: Power and the people – A Thematic Study tracing change and continuity over a much longer period, and including political, social, military, technological, economic, religious, cultural and scientific themes.
4. Elizabethan England, c1568 - 1603 – British Depth Study, including a study of a particular historical site.

Assessment

Each topic contributes 25% of the total marks for the course. Assessment is by two exam papers, the first of which includes topics 1 and 2 and the second of which includes topics 3 and 4.

Who would enjoy and be successful on the course?

The most important qualification for studying History is that you enjoy it. If your interest in History is very specific then look carefully at the topics we study before making your choice. There is a considerable amount of writing involved, and all exam questions require extended answers, so an ability and willingness to write well is essential for achieving higher grades. The History GCSE will test skills of explanation, analysis, evaluation of evidence and use of that evidence to investigate historical issues.

Progression – Sixth Form / Further Education / Careers

The History GCSE at Archway links to A level study in terms of both content and skills. History GCSE is essential for studying History at University as well as being a useful subject to have if you go on to study various other subjects including Geography, Law, Politics and English. Even if you do not wish for a career in a subject linked to History it is a qualification that will always impress employers.