History A Level

Course Description:

You will study the following units:

Unit 1: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin
Unit 2: Mao's China, 1949–76
Unit 3: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Entry to the A Level course is dependent upon minimum two year course entry requirements and you gaining at least Grade 5 in History and Grade 5 in English Language and English Literature at GCSE.

Aims of the Course:

Studying History at A level requires good organisational skills. We offer courses which we think are relevant, interesting, challenging and rewarding. Throughout you will have to analyse source materials, form your own judgments about them, master historical controversies, and solve problems by a process of logical, rational argument and debate. You must be prepared to work hard, undertake background reading and complete assignments as required. You will need to organise your own folder of notes and handouts.

Future Prospects:

The History course at Mark Rutherford stretches your ability to analyse and structure coherent arguments. The study of the subject is designed to facilitate easier access to such courses as Law, Journalism, Philosophy, Politics and Economics at University.

Student Feedback:

'History could well be renamed the study of people and life. An enjoyable, informative and influential subject, which cannot be ignored, much like the events we study.'
'I find it interesting to see how things have changed over time.'
'I like to see things from different viewpoints, for example Communism.'

History A Level

Units

Paper 1, Option 1E:
Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin
This option comprises a study in breadth, in which you will learn about the key political, social and economic features of communist rule in Russia during the twentieth century, an era that saw its authority and influence rise to the status of a superpower, only to diminish and decline later in the century. 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: 1917–85. This option also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question, which is contextualised by, and runs on from, the themes: reasons for the fall of the USSR, c1985–91.

Exam Unit – 30% of A Level

Paper 2, Option 2E.1:
Mao's China, 1949–76
This option comprises a study in depth of the transformation of communist China in the years 1949–76. The aftershocks of these changes are still being felt today as China emerges as a great economic and political power on the world stage.
Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the nature and extent of change in this period, the effects of Mao Zedong's policies on the lives of the Chinese people, and Mao's role in driving dramatic political, social and economic changes.

Exam Unit – 20% of A Level

Paper 3, Option 31:
Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors,1485–1603
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 nature of rebellion and disorder under the Tudors and the way the various challenges were met, the nature of change in government over the period and the changing relationship between the Crown and key sections of society. The option enables you to explore the way in which, despite a shaky start, the Tudors were able to establish their dynasty as one of the most powerful England has seen.

Exam Unit – 30% of A Level

Independent Coursework
This is a written paper that students have to research independently. They choose the topic to investigate (within the range of topics/questions provided by teacher) and have to produce a 4000 word essay based on this research.

Coursework Unit – 20% of A Level

Methods of Assessment:

The 3 exam units are externally assessed. The coursework is marked by the centre and moderated by the exam board.