

Course Aims

If you have enjoyed History at Key Stage Three then it could be a very good choice at GCSE. History is the shared experience of humanity. It involves solving puzzles, telling stories, weighing up evidence, understanding different opinions and developing an argument. History teaches us about who we are and where we come from; it offers challenge and opportunity to all. Studying the past helps to make sense of the world around us and question ideas and beliefs.

What you will study

Paper 1 focuses British Medicine 1250 to present: looking at how understanding of causes and treatments of disease have progressed. This includes studying the Black Death, Florence Nightingale, the impact of penicillin and the NHS. We also analyse the historic environment through a case study of medicine in the British Sector of the Western Front during the First World War.

In Paper 2 we will study the American West and look at how the whole of America was settled in the Nineteenth century and the effect that this had on the Native population. We also look in detail at the problems the various settler groups and the Native Americans faced in the struggle to survive in a hostile environment.

Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588, is the second unit on Paper 2. We will explore how Elizabeth established herself as a very strong and successful monarch, dealing with threats, rebellions and the issue of marriage. We study the Spanish Armada and the lives of ordinary Elizabethans during an age of exploration.

Finally, Paper 3, we explore the USA 1954-75: Conflict at home and abroad. We investigate the experiences of black Americans, the growth of the civil rights movement, the contrasting approaches of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, and the actions of the federal government. We then study the Vietnam War, including why the USA became involved, how it was fought, why there was opposition to it and why the USA ultimately withdrew.

Why should you choose GCSE History? Here are a few reasons...

History is a fascinating, fun, dynamic course with meaningful and thought-provoking topics. It is highly valued by universities, both for its own sake and as a complement to other subjects such as English Literature, Ethics and Philosophy, Government and Politics and many others. The Medicine Through Time unit would be particularly useful for students thinking of studying medicine or the sciences in future.

The Facts

Subject	Level	Exam Board	Time Allocation	Assessment	Access to grades
History	GCE	Edexcel	3 lessons	100% Examination - Paper 1 Medicine in Britain 1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches Paper 2 The American West, 1835-95 and Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588 Paper 3 USA 1964-75: Conflict at home and abroad	9-1

Further study and future careers

History is a valuable subject that demonstrates that you can work well academically. Historians can present and write fluently, argue convincingly and undertake independent research. History also opens many doors in terms of careers paths from teaching and journalism to law. It is highly regarded by leading universities.

**For further information talk to
Mr Devlin and the History Team on the top floor of
Oak and Elm**