



HISTORY



Exam Board: Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)

Staff: Kevin Morgan

Summary: A modular two year course with two units examined at the end of Year 12 and three units examined at the end of Year 13.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking History?

There is no requirement to have studied history before but students are expected to have at least a B grade or equivalent in English Language GCSE. The examination papers are designed to test knowledge and understanding; analytical and evaluative skills; essay writing skills and the ability to research and undertake a piece of extended writing.

The WJEC AS and A level in History encourages learners to:

- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance.
- Acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of aspects such as social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, as appropriate.
- Build on their understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study.
- Improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds.
- Develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them.
- Acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example, that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements are provisional.
- Develop their use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past.
- Organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements.



HISTORY

Assessment

AS Unit 1 (Period Study) – ‘Politics, Protest and Reform in Wales and England, c.1780-1880’

Written examination: 1 hour 30

20% of qualification (50% at AS)

AS Unit 2 (Depth Study Part 1) – ‘Weimar and its Challenges, c.1918-1933’

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

20% of qualification (50% at AS)

A2 Unit 3 (Breadth Study) – ‘The American Century, c.1890-1990’

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

20% of qualification

A2 Unit 4 (Depth Study Part 2) – ‘Nazi Germany, c.1933-1945’

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

20% of qualification

A2 Unit 5 (NEA)-Unit 5 is a non-examination assessment (NEA). Learners investigate an issue of historical debate through a study of different historical interpretations. This unit encourages learners to use a range of sources, both contemporary and later to explain how and why different historical interpretations are formed. The issue chosen will allow learners to extend and enhance their understanding of aspects of the history studied in the broader parts of the specification or it can come from an area of history not studied elsewhere in the specification. However, the issue chosen must not duplicate the content of the depth studies chosen in Units 2 and 4.

20% of qualification

What could I do at the end of my course?

History can not only lead to a career in teaching but also in law, politics, journalism, the civil service, television or banking. As ‘The History Benchmarking Draft Report’ states, “Important abilities and qualities of mind are acquired through the study of history. They are particularly valuable for the graduate as they are readily transferable to many occupations and careers”.