



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM GUIDE

HISTORY

AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least grade 6 in GCSE English Language or History.

It is not necessary to have studied this subject at GCSE in order to take it at A Level.



In an age of information overload the world needs people who can understand the crux of an issue quickly, process a diverse range of information and quickly reach a judgement. It's no coincidence, therefore, that those who have studied History are so valued in careers such as the law, finance, management, and that university admissions tutors are so fond of the rigours of History A Level. But we think the best reason to study it is because it's just so enjoyable.

History is split into three units; two examined and one coursework.

UNIT 1 - RUSSIA 1855 - 1964

2hr 30min exam - 40% A Level

This unit will examine the dramatic change that Russia underwent from the era of the Tsars to the removal of Khrushchev in 1964.

In Year 12 students will consider how Russian Tsars tried to preserve the system of autocracy before the First World War and how the burdens of the war led to the collapse of Tsarism and the execution of Nicholas II in 1917.

In Year 13 students will study the emergence of the communist dictatorship under Lenin and its consolidation by the increasingly brutal and paranoid Joseph Stalin. The course concludes with an examination of the post Stalin era and the rule of Nikita Khrushchev .

"History is a fantastic subject to take because it requires you to sharpen your analytical skills. You need to be able to see things objectively and within their context. This ability can be transferred to any discipline, and is useful across all subjects."

UNIT 2 - BRITAIN 1951 - 2007

2hr 30min exam - 40% A Level

This unit examines the key political, economic and social and international changes that shaped Britain in the second half of the twentieth century.

In Year 12 students will consider how Britain emerged from the effects of WWII and the impact of the Attlee consensus. They will study the era of Macmillan, the Golden Years of the 1950s and increasing social change in the 1960s. The last module in Year 12 will assess the pressures faced by the post war consensus and why it collapsed in the late 1970s.

In Year 13 students will examine the impact of the Thatcher Revolution from 1979 and how the following two decades of Conservative government changed Britain. They will then study why this era came to an end and how Tony Blair replaced Conservative dominance with new Labour. Students will also consider Britain's place in the world and how society has undergone enormous change in the last 50 years.

UNIT 3 - COURSE WORK

Marked internally - 20% A Level

Students will begin this towards the end of Year 12. The topic studied is Westward Expansion in the USA from 1803-1900. Assessment is in the form of an extended piece of writing of between 3000 and 5000 words based on a question from the taught course.

"Historians are a dangerous people. They have been trained to doubt."

Nikita Khrushchev

*Click here to watch the course introductory video
from Head of History, Mr Richard Macfarlane and Mrs Jo Cann*

In order to join us in the Sixth Form, we require an average of grade 6 across eight GCSE subjects, including English and Mathematics. See individual subjects for any specific requirements for study at A Level.

For detailed course information on all of the A Level subjects please visit the AQA, Edexcel or OCR websites.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the admissions process, please call 0115 935 4444 or email admissions@not.gdst.net



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