



Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

Educating The Individual For The Benefit Of All

Why Study GCSE History?

GCSE History will appeal to anyone keen to learn more about the world we live in today and how events in the past have influenced this. The course focuses on how our history has shaped the modern world and encourages debates, controversial opinions and interesting research. In History there is rarely ever simply one right answer and if you are interested in using sources, DVD, cartoons and artefacts to help answer some big questions, then this course is for you.



Careers Options

Historians are highly sought after in the work place as they have well developed communication and literacy skills, they show the ability to be analytical and to evaluate situations, as well as having a proven ability to be successful in a truly academic subject. Because of this, sixth form colleges and universities will always value a History GCSE.

History gives you lots of options when it comes to finding work after education. Jobs in law, the police, the media, journalism, archaeology, management, medicine and of course teaching all welcome a History GCSE qualification.

GCSE History

What you will study

Medicine in Britain from 1250 to the present day

- Ideas about causes of disease and illness.
- Approaches to treatment and prevention.
- Looking at key figures including William Harvey, Florence Nightingale, Alexander Fleming and John Snow.
- Examining case studies including The Black Death, Cholera and the discovery of DNA.

The British sector of the Western Front, 1914 – 1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches

- Looking at the theatre of war in Flanders and Northern France: the Ypres Salient, the Somme, Arras and Cambrai.
- Examining the trench system - its construction and organisation.
- Conditions that required medical treatment in the trenches such as rifle wounds, injuries from explosives, the problem of shrapnel and the effects of gas attacks.
- Medical and surgical experiments in war.

The American West from 1835 – 1895

- The Native Americans of the Plains including their beliefs and way of life.
- Migration and early settlements including the conflict and tension between settlers and the Native Americans.
- Ranching and the Cattle Industry including the role of the cowboy in ranch life.
- Conflict with the Plains Indians including Little Crow's War (1862), The Sand Creek Massacre (1864) and Red Cloud's War (1866-68).
- Problems of law and order including Billy the Kid, the OK Corral and Wyatt Earp.
- The destruction of the Plains Indian way of life including the extermination of the buffalo.

Elizabethan England

- Government and religion including the religious settlement of 1559, religious challenges and the problem of Mary Queen of Scots.
- Challenges to Elizabeth from home and abroad including revolts and plots against Elizabeth, The Armada and Sir Francis Drake.
- Education and Leisure in the Elizabethan Era.
- Exploration and voyages of discovery including Sir Walter Raleigh and the colonisation of Virginia.

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 – 1939

- The Weimar Republic 1918-1929 including the origins, challenges and recovery of the republic.
- Hitler's rise to power, 1919-1933 including the development of the Nazi Party and the early attempts at power.
- Nazi control and dictatorship (1933-1939) including the Reichstag Fire, the Enabling Act and the banning of other political parties and trade unions.
- The role of the SS, SA and Gestapo, including the police state and control of the legal system.
- Life in Nazi Germany including the persecution of the Jews.

How is the subject assessed?

We use the Edexcel specification and the exams are as follows:

- Paper 1 – 1 hour 20 minutes (30% of overall GCSE)
- Paper 2 – 1 hour 50 minutes (40% of overall GCSE)
- Paper 3 – 1 hour 30 minutes (30% of overall GCSE)

For further information contact:

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