



Archbishop Tenison's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM



HISTORY

A Level Course Overview

We follow the OCR Specification at A Level. The course is made up of the following four modules:

Unit 1: The Later Tudors 1547-1553 (25%)

- In this unit, students will first examine the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I - the period known as the mid-Tudor crises - through analysing original sources of the Tudor period. Students will assess for far the Tudor dynasty was under threat and how it survived. Students will then learn about the Elizabethan era, assessing to what extent Elizabeth's reign really was a Golden Age for England.

Unit 2: The American Revolution 1740-96 (15%)

- The American Revolution is the study of how the original 13 colonies formed their own independence away from Britain to form the United States of America. Pupils will study the forming of cultural identity, the war of independence, the forming of a constitution and the legacy of George Washington.

Unit 3: Russia and its rulers 1855-1964 (40%)

- This unit covers over a century of Russian history. Students will need to consider how Russian society changed over a long period of time and write thematic essays analysing the significance of different events and historical figures. There are three periods studied in greater depth: the reign of Alexander II, the rule of the Provisional Government and the rule of Khrushchev.

Unit 4: Topic-based essay on US Civil Rights movement (20%)

- Students will devise their own question about the Black Civil Rights movement in the USA. They will then research their chosen topic and find primary sources and historians' interpretations, before writing up their answer as a 4000 word essay. Questions chosen by former students include: *'Was black power a hindrance or a help to the Civil Rights movement?'* and *'Assess the significance of World War Two for the progress of the African American Civil Rights movement.'*



What's great about History at Tenison's Sixth Form?

- History is an exceptionally rewarding subject to study. It requires an enquiring mind, a keen desire to investigate the past and how it relates to current affairs, as well as the ability to communicate ideas effectively. It will reward you by developing highly sought after skills of evaluation, critical analysis and persuasion. It will also, it is hoped, inspire you with a lifelong passion for the study of history.
- We have planned the History A Level at Tenison's carefully so that students can learn about a variety of historical periods and places. We build on students' knowledge from the GCSE course, particularly in our modules on the Tudors and Russia and its rulers, but also introduce students to different events which they will not have encountered before.
- All of our modules are based around historical enquiries, encouraging students to investigate questions about the past. Examples include *'Was Mary I's burning of Protestants a fatal mistake?'* and *'What were the causes of the Russian Revolution in 1917?'*



Opportunities and Successes

- **What events can you expect to attend?**
- We organise a range of opportunities for students to develop their knowledge beyond the classroom. Including trips, workshops and lectures. Recently we have taken a group of students to a research and source analysis skills workshop at the National Archives at Kew. As well as improving their evaluative skills, our students were able to handle one of the few original copies of the American Declaration of Independence.
- **What career opportunities could studying History lead to?**
- An A Level in History forms an excellent preparation for further study at degree level and will give you access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. History provides an excellent foundation for many careers including law, journalism, marketing and advertising. Did you know that British Prime Ministers are more likely to have a degree in History than any other subject?
- **What Employability skills does History develop and nurture?**
- A Level History is an excellent course for developing a wide range of skills. In particular, students will learn how to think about and use information critically, how to present their ideas in a logical and coherent manner and how to create and deliver a persuasive argument – all skills highly valued by employers in many different industries.