

Subject: History	Awarding Body: OCR
Head of Dept: Miss Watson	Teacher: Miss Watson

Preferred entry requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE History

Specification Content

AS level		A level	
1	Lancastrians, Yorkists and Tudors 1455-1509 (1 hour 30 minute examination)	1	Lancastrians, Yorkists and Tudors 1455-1509 (1 hour 30 minute examination)
2	The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon, 1774-1815 (1 hour 30 minute examination)	2	The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon, 1774-1815 (1 hour examination)
		3	Russia and its rulers, 1855-1964 (2 hour 30 minute examination)
		4	You will also complete a piece of coursework on any topic of your choice

Structure of the course:

If you choose the **two year History A level course** then in the first year you will study 2 units, the first being the Lancastrians, Yorkists and Tudors. This unit gives you the opportunity to study an exciting period of English history where rival families quarrelled over the crown of England, where battles were frequently fought and where Kings were murdered and overthrown on a regular basis. Secondly, you will study the French Revolution during which the French King was executed and France entered a time of great chaos, terror and violence. In the second year you will look at the development of Russia over the years 1855-1964, from the rule of the Russian Tsars (kings) to the outbreak of revolution in 1917 and the emergence of one of the most brutal of the 20th century dictators - Stalin. You will also complete a piece of coursework on any topic of your choice – this is your chance to choose whatever you want to study. If you do **AS level** only, you will study the first two topics of the full A level but will be assessed differently.

Methodology:

The History Department employs a range of different teaching methods to help you learn (and enjoy learning) the topics studied at A level. You will be expected to write essays and answer source questions as essential preparation for the examinations, but you will also have the opportunity to take part in role-plays, debates, historical re-enactments, presentations and decision-making exercises. There is also the opportunity to go on trips as part of the course. History students have been on a number of trips in the last few years including spending a day at Bosworth Battlefield re-enacting medieval warfare with the aid of some plastic swords and real medieval armour, a day at Ludlow Castle and visiting the Tower of London.

Strengths/Skills developed through studying this subject:

A level History helps you to:

- Develop a wide range of skills including the ability to gather and select relevant information and to communicate your ideas effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Develop your analytical skills - you will learn to assess why events happen and what the consequences of events and decisions are; these are useful skills which are valued by universities and employers.
- Develop your organisational skills. You will learn to present and organise your views in a logical and effective manner as well as improving your study skills as you will be required to complete coursework, to set deadlines and undertake extra research and reading.

What students do with this qualification:

History is well respected by Universities and is useful for a whole range of Higher Education courses as you can apply the analytical and investigative skills learnt in A level History to many different areas of study. A level History can prove beneficial to a wide variety of careers. Past History A level students from Highclare have gone on to study a range of subjects at University including Law, Business and Archaeology and, of course, History.