



IGCSE History

Exam board

Edexcel IGCSE

Why study History?

GCSE History at Amherst offers a varied and exciting study of the world in which we live and will help you to understand why it is the way it is. Our GCSE course builds upon our 20th century studies from Year 9 by examining the History of recent times. The topics studied will include the rise of Hitler and life in Nazi Germany. You will also learn about the Cold War era and the conflict in Vietnam. In addition, you will investigate how health and medicine in our own nation, Britain, has changed over time, from the Victorian era into the 20th century. Finally, you will have the chance to study the social and political upheaval of the Apartheid era in South Africa.

Course Requirements

To be successful, you will need enthusiasm for History. Good reading and writing skills are also essential. During the course, you will be building on your existing historical skills, with a focus on source analysis. An inquisitive mind comes in very useful! Commitment, a positive approach and self-motivation are also vital, as independent study forms a key part of the course.

Course Content

Germany: Development of dictatorship, 1918-45

This depth study focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent period of change. It was a period of democracy and dictatorship. You will learn about the development and collapse of democracy after World War One and the ensuing rise and fall of Nazism, culminating in Germany's defeat in World War Two.

South Africa: From union to the end of apartheid, 1948-94

This depth study allows you to learn about the system of racial segregation in South Africa known as Apartheid. You will investigate the causes and consequences of this system, and some of the key figures involved in the fight for racial equality, including Nelson Mandela.

The Vietnam Conflict, 1945-75

This historical investigation enables you to study the causes and events of the war in Vietnam. You will investigate how and why this war escalated, the role of the media in televising the war and how the conflict was finally resolved. This investigation will also involve assessing the role of the USA in escalating the conflict and the reaction of the American people.

Changes in medicine, c1848-1945

This breadth study enables you to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a period of approximately 100 years. It considers the causes, scale, and consequences of factors such as the discovery of penicillin and developments within surgery. You will also consider the significance of improvements made during the World Wars, the role of women and the formation of the NHS.

Assessment

Two examination papers (50% each)

PAPER 1: Depth Studies - 1 hour 30 minutes

- Germany
- South Africa

PAPER 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies - 1 hour 30 minutes

- The Vietnam Conflict
- Changes in medicine



How can History help you?

History is a valuable subject for any student to follow - not only is it fascinating in itself, but the content will give you a perspective on modern day issues and enable you to see current events in context. You will also learn to use, understand and assess evidence, to analyse sources such as posters, photographs and diary entries, and to sift important information from the trivial in order to formulate judgements and construct logical arguments. These are transferable skills that will be of vital importance in the world of Higher Education and work. Whatever your future career plans may be, History is a useful subject to study as it will help you to develop independent study skills and to formulate opinions, as well as enriching your knowledge and understanding of the world around us.

