



History

Head of Department: **D Murphy** (d.murphy@lsf.org)

Exam Board: Edexcel IGCSE

Pupils study the Edexcel IGCSE syllabus that focuses on the world-changing events of the 20th century. This gives pupils the opportunity to gain an insight into the events which have helped to form the world in which we live. LGS History results are excellent. In the 2022 exams, 54% of pupils gained grades 8-9, continuing a trend of consistently excellent results, with History being one of the most successful subjects for many pupils.

Pupils will cover four exciting topics over the two years:

The First World War

Hitler's Germany

Stalin's Russia

The Middle East 1917-2012

In addition to learning about the past, IGCSE History helps pupils acquire key academic skills such as critical thinking, analysis, and persuasive writing. History is no longer simply the learning of large amounts of factual information and its regurgitation; candidates are taught to analyse a great variety of historical evidence in order to make reasoned judgements and present compelling evidence-based evaluations.

IGCSE History pupils develop the ability to read quickly and effectively, think deeply about a subject, develop cogent arguments, and communicate clearly. Historians are well prepared for employment and university study, with particularly good communication and analytical skills that transfer easily into a variety of career paths, especially the Law, Journalism, the Civil Service, Politics, Media, and Management Consultancy.

Exam questions are broken into manageable chunks, and the skills will be familiar from questions practised since Year 7. The shorter questions are completed in only a few minutes, with the longest essays taking less than half an hour. The key to success at IGCSE History is deploying knowledge efficiently and succinctly and arguing persuasively and convincingly. We are lucky to have a very well-qualified set of teachers, several of whom are Edexcel IGCSE examiners who provide the most up-to-date techniques to ensure the best possible chance of succeeding in exams.

Topics covered:

The First World War

We start off Year 10 by looking at the First World War. As well as looking at the reasons for the war breaking out, trenches and new weaponry, we study some of the major battles such as the Somme, Passchendaele, Gallipoli, and Amiens as well as considering the naval aspects of the war. When possible, we encourage pupils to join us on a battlefields tour of Belgium and northern France – a great opportunity for more hands-on learning.

Stalin's Russia

Stalin, the self-styled 'Man of Steel', transformed Russia from a backwards nation that had been badly beaten in the First World War into a superpower with nuclear technology by the time he died in 1953. We look at how Stalin ruthlessly grabbed power in the 1920s by exiling and killing rivals, how he brutally crushed any opposition to his rule in the Great Terror of the 1930s and how his leadership and industrial policies led to the Russian defeat of the Nazis in the Second World War. Stalin killed 20 million of his own people during his rule yet Russians openly wept when he died in 1953. This period of Russian history is utterly captivating and must be studied!

Hitler's Germany

To complement the study of Stalin's Russia, we look at the other major European dictator of the 1930s, Adolf Hitler. Pupils study the incredible story of his rise from unemployed artist to German leader in the space of 10 years. We also study the horrors of Nazi rule including the use of death camps and a secret police. Nazi policies towards the Jews and the Holocaust are looked at as well as studying the Second World War and the impact of Allied bombing on Germany. Again, this is captivating and indispensable history.



The Middle East 1917-2012

The final topic covered is a study of the long-running crisis in the Middle East. We feel this topic is a great opportunity for pupils to gain a real understanding of why there is ongoing tension between Israel and the Arab world. The course traces the roots of the conflict from the end of the First World War, through to the creation of Israel and the Suez Crisis of 1956. We then move on to the Arab-Israeli conflicts of 1967 and 1973, superpower involvement in the Middle East and the attempts to find a lasting peace right into the current century. Once again, this is a superb course that the pupils will find fascinating and will give them an acute understanding of a major contemporary political issue.

If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact Mr Murphy or any other member of the History Department.

