

A Level

History

(Early or Modern)
Edexcel



If you choose not to continue this subject onto year two, you are able to sit an AS exam at the end of year one.

Course Content

History is one of the most popular courses at Peter Symonds. Students study three exam units over the two years on the A level course as well as writing a 4,000 word piece of coursework. At the end of the first year, students can take AS exams in the first two units they have studied in order to gain an AS level in History. The AS is a separate qualification to the full A level.

At Peter Symonds our students have a choice of two History courses. Both our Early and Modern History courses will result in an A level History qualification. They will be taught and examined in the same way and you should make your choice on the basis of which period you think will interest you the most. Although we anticipate the majority of students choosing to follow either the Early or Modern route through the two years it should be possible for students to switch at the end of the first year if they wish.

The Early course comprises:	The Modern course comprises:
Year One (AS course) Unit 1: Breadth Study The Crusades c1095-1204 Unit 2: Depth Study Henry II and the Angevin Empire 1154-89	Year One (AS course) Unit 1: Breadth Study The Civil War, Cromwell, Restoration & Revolution: Britain 1625-1701 Unit 2: Depth Study The French Revolution, 1774-99
<p>There has never been a better or more relevant time to study the Crusades. As well as learning about figures such as Richard the Lionheart and Saladin, this unit also offers a glimpse into medieval life, beliefs and values. You will also study relations between Christians and Muslims during the era of the Crusades and the development of concepts such as jihad and the idea of a 'just war'.</p> <p>In the second unit you will learn about Henry II who became Duke of Normandy aged 16, and king of England at 21. Our study of Henry's thirty-five year reign examines how he tried to ensure justice for all his subjects, his difficulties controlling the enormous Angevin empire and the problems with his rebellious sons as well as his ruinous dispute with Thomas Becket.</p>	<p>In the Modern breadth course you will learn about Britain under the Stuarts. After the Tudor era Britain underwent a century of change and upheaval with civil war, a period of republic, restoration of the monarchy and revolution. At the same time as this upheaval the Stuart age saw considerable change in the lives of the individuals through developments in trade, culture and religion as the foundations of modern Britain were laid.</p> <p>The French Revolution has become the standard by which all modern revolutions are measured. You will study the whole course of the revolution, from its early idealistic beginnings through the descent into anarchy and terror and then finally the rescue or betrayal (depending on your perspective) by Napoleon Bonaparte.</p>

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Year Two - Unit 3 The Wars of the Roses and the establishment of the Tudors Coursework option	Year Two - Unit 3 Germany 1871-1990 Coursework option
In the second year, the exam unit focuses on the dramatic century of crisis, upheaval and rebellion that led to the defeat of Richard III in 1485 and brought Henry VII and the Tudor dynasty to the throne. You will learn about the personalities and characters that were key to the Wars of the Roses and consider the wider lessons about how kings controlled (or failed to control) their realms in early modern England. The coursework unit is an opportunity for students to engage in real historical debate. You will be required to take three contrasting opinions on a particular historical issue and weigh up the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments using your own research and evidence. The main option for this unit will focus on an aspect of the Tudor era.	During the second year we will explore the role played by revolution, change and continuity in nineteenth and twentieth century Germany, from unification in 1871 under Bismarck through the Nazi period, the division after the war, and up to reunification in 1990. The coursework unit is an opportunity for students to engage in real historical debate. You will be required to take three contrasting opinions on a particular historical issue and weigh up the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments using your own research and evidence. The main option for this unit will focus on the causes of the Cold War, though there may be some choice for students.

Methods and Patterns of Assessment

A Level

Unit 1: written examination 2 hours and 15 minutes
(30% of total A Level mark)

Unit 2: written examination 1 hour 30 minutes
(20% of total A Level mark)

Unit 3: written examination 2 hours and 15 minutes
(30% of total A Level mark)

Unit 4: coursework assignment of 4000 words
(20% of total A Level mark).

AS Level

Unit 1: 60% AS written examination 2 hours and 15 minutes

Unit 2: 40 AS written examination 1 hour 30 minutes

Financial Implications

Students are required to purchase text books for the units that they study. They will also be given the opportunity to participate in educational visits and trips. We currently run overseas trips to Paris and Berlin as well as one day visits to the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the National Portrait Gallery and Chalke Valley History Festival.

Career Possibilities

History is useful for any career which involves researching and analysing information and expressing arguments based upon evidence. Good examples of this are careers in the Civil Service, banking and accountancy, politics, social and business administration, teaching, journalism and law management

Methods of Teaching and Resources

A variety of methods are used to teach the course, including class discussion and debate, group work, and presentations. The nature of the course also means that student will engage with evaluating contemporary sources and will be required to research events and analyse different historical interpretations with some degree of independence.

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at grade A* - C, including Maths and English.

It is not a requirement to have studied History at GCSE provided you have an interest in the subject.

Apply online: www.psc.ac.uk/apply t: 01962 857555 e: admissions@psc.ac.uk

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