

Carshalton Boys A level

History

During the course you will learn the following: the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in history; how and why societies have changed over time; the theories of historians and the language that they use to discuss their ideas; an understanding of the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians to analyse and evaluate it; to develop an understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented; to express your own historical ideas confidently and effectively. You will cover a period exceeding 200 years of chronology.

The course will appeal to students who have an interest in the way that the world has developed through the ages, particularly between the early modern and modern periods; who enjoy investigation and discovery; who enjoy debate and like putting forward a well-argued case; who want to improve their analytical skill; who want to study a subject which encourages them to consider evidence and make up their own minds. It is recommended that you have at least a GCSE Grade 6 in History.

You may still be accepted onto the course if you have not studied History at Key Stage 4, however, you will be required to meet with the Head of Department to discuss your suitability. You must have secured at least a GCSE Grade 6 in English Language.

ASSESSMENT and CONTENT

Year 1

Unit 1: Britain, c.1785–c.1870, Protest and Reform (ID)

Unit 2: German Unification 1840–1871

Year 2

Unit 3: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA: 1850-2009 (D9 – 39.1)

Unit 4: Coursework

All students will undertake an historical investigation, producing a 3000–4000 word essay on 'The Reasons for the Start of the Cold War'. All students will undertake the same investigation, but will independently choose five different academic works, from a selection of twelve texts, to reference.

Units are examined by written paper, except for unit 4 which is assessed through submitting coursework. For some units you will be provided with source documents to use in your answers. The exams for Units 1 and 3 are 2 hours and 15 minutes, whilst the exam for Unit 2 is 1 hour and 30 minutes. The coursework unit includes the examination of course materials and the analysis of at least three different historian's interpretations.

By the end of the course, you will have learned how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate complex ideas effectively. These skills are recognised and valued by employers, universities and colleges. History combines well with a whole range of subjects, including English, Politics and Economics, as well as subjects such as Maths and Science, thereby enabling students to move on to an extensive range of university courses or into employment.

One of our students says... 'I enjoy History because the skills you use can be transferred across to so many other subjects'.

The course requirements:

Grade 6 or higher at History GCSE, plus Grade 6 in English Language. Students with no prior study of History may be considered at the Head of Department's discretion.