



Midhurst Rother College

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History

Exam Board: Edexcel

Contact teacher: Mrs S Hart

Why study History?

You will develop your ability to evaluate and analyse information, to weigh up evidence and to communicate complex ideas effectively. Students will be able to understand why dictatorships occur and how dictators manage to control their people. The British units investigate the impact of the mass media on society and this links in with changing attitudes to crime and punishment. History is an intellectually challenging subject, enabling students to understand contemporary issue in the context of the past.

The written, research and analytical skills developed throughout the course can be applied to many professions from media work to public services and the world of business. History is highly valued by universities and can be usefully combined with a number of other subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, English and Psychology. It is an important foundation study for students who want to pursue Law or Politics at university.

Course details

AS level

Unit 1: Russia 1881-1953

Unit 2: Mass Media Popular Culture and Social Change in Britain since 1945

A2 level

Unit 3: From Kaiser to Fuhrer, Germany 1900-1945

Unit 4: Coursework on Crime and Punishment in Britain 1830-1965

How is the course taught and assessed?

You will notice some differences and similarities with GCSE History. There is still a variety of learning styles.

Sometimes the teacher will lead the lesson while on other occasions there will be far more independent learning. The teacher will set up a task and it will be your responsibility to organise the completion of it. The teacher will be on hand to guide and advise you, but it is your motivation and organisation that are crucial. You may be asked to carry out source investigations, internet research, presentations or debates. Visits and student conferences help extend learning beyond the classroom.

The course is assessed through examinations and coursework. The entire AS course is assessed through examinations. The A2 component of the course involves one coursework unit and one exam-based unit.

Entry requirements

Students will need 6 GCSE passes at grades A* - C including Mathematics and English Language. It is not a requirement to have taken GCSE History, however it is recommended that you have at least a GCSE grade B or above in English Language or History.

What are the progression routes with this qualification?

History is taken by students doing a wide range of other subjects, in both the Arts and Sciences. Students at Midhurst Rother College go on to a wide range of courses and careers. A considerable number will take a degree in the subject, or a related field, such as English, Law, Philosophy, where an A-Level in History is certainly an advantage.

How can I extend my knowledge and understanding of the subject?

Wide reading and critical reflection on historical and modern day events are vital for success at the highest level within this subject.