

Optional: History (Edexcel IGCSE 4HI1)

History is an academically robust subject for anyone interested in the causes, outcomes and significance of major historical events. Students will unpick the motivations behind prominent individuals and understand key political movements and conflicts that mark our twentieth century. The course charts the raw nationalism and conflicts that sparked and characterised the First World War; to the ideological struggles of the global Cold War that eventually followed. History offers students a crucial sense of historical perspective to support them in a rapidly changing world. It is especially highly valued by a wide range of employers and universities for it allows students to develop a range of crucial transferable skills: producing a balanced interpretation; analysing primary evidence, and evaluating opposing viewpoints. With current concerns over fake news and counterfactual assertion in our information age, the skills of a well-schooled historian to critique with confidence a throwaway headline or tweet will be a useful lifelong skill.

Course Content:

The specification comprises two Papers, each consisting of two topics spanning many of the key events of the twentieth century.

Paper One:	Development of Dictatorship: Germany	1918 - 1945
	A World Divided: Superpower Relations	1943 - 1972
Paper Two:	The Origins and Course of the First World War	1905 - 1918
	Changes in Medicine	1848 – 1948

The course allows in-depth study of key twentieth-century topics and aims to build upon skills developed lower down the school. These include evidence *interpretation* and understanding of concepts such as *cause* and *consequence* and *change* and *continuity*. Additionally students examine the influence of major figures in political history.

The work is demanding but varied. A willingness to share, discuss and debate ideas with peers is helpful, but the most important requirement is interest and enthusiasm in the subject and a desire to understand the events, trends and individuals that have shaped past societies.

Literacy requirements: There is a heavy emphasis on literacy skills within the history GCSE. Pupils thinking of opting for history at KS4 need to be confident in their literacy skills as this a challenging and rigorous part of the course

Method of Assessment:

There are two final examinations, each carrying 50% of the total mark. The papers will feature questions that test evidence handling skills; understanding of historical concepts; the ability to support analysis with good evidence, and evaluation of source-based interpretations as part of extended writing.