

Why study History?

History is an endlessly fascinating subject with infinite possibilities and perspectives. It is probably the academic subject that gives rise to most public debate in Britain, and its contemporary importance and relevance are widely acknowledged. As Marcus Garvey remarked, a people without knowledge of their past history is like a tree without roots.

The skills acquired in A level history complement the study of a wide range of other academic courses and they help to prepare you for successful careers in, amongst other things, the law, the civil service, the media, marketing, accountancy, research, teaching and heritage work. At undergraduate degree level, History is among the most popular subjects studied at university and can be combined with many other subjects (both scientific and in the humanities/arts) for a joint as well as single Honours degrees.

As you would expect, to help you get the most from this vivid and varied subject you will be presented with a wealth of opportunities, including trips to London and elsewhere, and we will host visits from distinguished historians. Lessons will involve teacher exposition, individual and group work, student-led debates and presentations.

Why study History at Hackney New Sixth Form?

The focus of all our courses is to study significant individuals, events, developments and issues within their historical context. Through your studies, you will gain a better understanding of the present as you engage in detail with the past. You will develop skills in writing, structuring arguments, formulating and justifying judgments, and critically evaluating differing views. The History Department is extremely well experienced in successfully delivering A level to Sixth Formers and knowledge of the periods being studied is thorough and extensive. The A level course will give students an excellent understanding of what shaped modern Britain and the USA.

The two-year course is divided into three units, of which two are exam based and the third is an historical investigation (coursework) – an essay of 4000 words. Each unit focuses on a different, contrasting area of history. For the examined units you will study Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy (examining the reigns of James 1 and Charles I, up to the execution of Charles I after the English Civil War, 1603-1649 (at AS level – Unit). Unit 1 at A level will involve the same study, in addition to the Interregnum, the Restoration, the reigns of Charles II, James II and William and Mary from 1603 – 1702. This period will give the student an insight into the emergence of our modern parliamentary democracy. Unit 2 at AS level will involve the study of The American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945 – 1963 and will focus on the post-war legacy at home and abroad of the presidencies of Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy. At A level students will also study the legacy of JFK in the presidencies from Lyndon B. Johnson to Ronald Reagan 1945 – 1980. Unit 3 is solely an A level unit and will cover the period Britain and Ireland: 1893 – 1998, where students will write a 4000 word essay on the topic of their choice within the stated historical period.

The Examination Board that we will be following will be AQA.

Entry Criteria: TBD

How will I be assessed?

AS Unit 1: Breadth Study	1D: 'Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy' (to 1649 for AS level) Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes	Two questions (1 compulsory) 50 marks 50% of AS level
AS Unit 2: Depth Study	2Q: 'The American Dream: Reality and Illusion 1945 – 1980 (to 1963 for AS level) Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes	Two questions (1 compulsory on Sources) 50 marks 50% of AS level
A level Unit 1: Breadth Study	1D: 'Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy 1603 – 1702' Written Examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes	3 questions (1 compulsory) 80 marks 40% of A level
A level Unit 2: Depth Study	2Q: 'The American Dream: Reality and Illusion 1945 – 1980' Written Examination: 2 hours 30 minutes	3 questions (1 compulsory on Sources) 80 marks 40% of A level
A level Unit 3: Historical Investigation (Personal Study/Coursework)	'Britain & Ireland: 1893 – 1998'	4000 word essay (marked by teacher) 40 marks 20% of A level

