



PARK HIGH SCHOOL

History

Exam Board: OCR

Course Specification: H505

Qualification obtained: OCR's A Level in History A

Lead Teacher: Mr Boniface

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Subject Overview:

A course designed to delve deep into British and world history.

History A-level builds on the skills and knowledge base from GCSE. Students are trained in how to write, research and argue in depth and at university level on a range of topics. We study the history of more than just Britain, looking at Europe and the wider world in all of our units. We undertake a thematic study, covering an extended period of history of over 150 years. Students explore a topic in history they have an interest in through the coursework element.

Our aim is to create independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers – all personal assets that can make them stand out as they progress to higher education and/or the workplace.

Assessment percentage Exam: 80%

Assessment percentage Coursework: 20%

Progression Routes:

Post-18 study: History is extremely highly regarded by Oxbridge and Russell Group universities for the fact that it trains all students in the kinds of research and written skills required to succeed at university. It is well regarded even in sciences and medicine.

Post-18 employment: History is a great subject for developing confidence and personal expression- vital in any job. Furthermore, it develops the ability to process information and respond to it rapidly and under pressure.

Subject requirements:

- Grade 6 in History
- Grade 5 in English Language
- Grade 4 in English Literature
- Grade 4 in Mathematic

Subject complementary learning:

- English
- Economics
- Sociology
- Geography
- Psychology

Student Quote:

"History A-level has been an exciting experience so far and although it may be a leap from GCSE, the support from the department has been amazing. Learning about the Wars of the Roses and the Cold War has been extremely eye-opening. Moreover, the concepts and skills we are learning from History A-level would be very beneficial for our future career paths."

Year 12

Topics covered:

- The Wars of the Roses and Henry VII 1445-1509 - A fascinating unit full of bloody murder and war. We train students to handle primary material from the 15th Century that covers the fall of Henry VI. We then build their essay writing skills with the rule of Edward IV and Richard III, and finally the Rise of the Tudors.
- The Cold War in Europe 1941-1995 - Building on the study of International Relations at GCSE, we examine the state of relations between the superpowers towards the end of the Second World War, through the mid-1990s.

Year 13

Topics covered:

- The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792-1945 - This unit builds students understanding of synthesis, and the ability to show the understanding of how a major concept, in this case warfare, changes significantly over time.
- Coursework - The most exciting part of History A-level is the ability to research and write an Oxbridge-Standard essay on the topic of their choice. In the past years we have had students look at:
 - African-American culture since Civil Rights
 - Nazi Medical experiments
 - Witchcraft
 - Aztecs
 - Whitechapel murders and Jack the Ripper
 - Gangsters

Assessment

Is 80% Exam and 20% Coursework.

Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment Details	Weighting
Y105	Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII	Written Examination: 50 marks, 1hr 30min	25%
Y223	The Cold War in Europe	Written Examination: 30 marks, 1hr	15%
Y306	Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors	Written Examination: 80 marks, 2hr 30min	40%
Y100	Topic based essay	Non-examined assessment: 40 marks, Written essay of 3000-4000 words	20%

Additional information

Course specific equipment:

- Lever arch folder

Essential Reading Material:

OCR A Level History: England 1445-1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII

ISBN-10: 1471836681

Access to History: The Cold War 1941-95 Third Edition

ISBN-10:1471838668

Recommended resources:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/assessment/>

Enrichment:

Optional Berlin trip- approx. £475. A-level university lectures (venues tbc)- approx. £15 per visit.

