



PARK HIGH SCHOOL

History

Exam Board: OCR

Course Specification: [H505](#)

Qualification obtained: OCR A Level in History A

Lead Teacher: Ms Salkeld

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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.

GCSE Subject Exam results minimum requirements:

- A Grade 6 in *History*
- At least 6 other GCSE subjects with Grade 4s. These **MUST** include *English Language* and *Mathematics*.

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:

- Alfred and the making of England 871-1016: A fascination unit that abouts the foundations of England as a nation state, we train students to handle primary material relating to Alfred the Great, we then build the essay skills through examining Alfred's successors and their uniting of England.
- Russia (1894-1941). A study of the final days of Tsarist Russia, the 1917 revolutions and communist take-over and the changes to the USSR under Stalin.

Year 13

Topics covered:

- Popular culture and the witchcraze of the 17th and 18th centuries, including the Witchcraze in Germany, Matthew Hopkins – Witchfinder General and the Salem witch trials.
- Coursework - The most exciting part of History A-level is the ability to research and write an Oxbridge-Standard essay on the topic of your 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
 - Samurai

Assessment

Is 80% Exam and 20% Coursework.

Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment Details	Weighting
Y101	Alfred & the Making of England	Written Examination: 50 marks, 1hr 30min	25%
Y219	Russia (1894-1941)	Written Examination: 30 marks, 1hr	15%
Y312	Popular culture and the witchcraze of the 17th and 18th centuries	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
- 20 file dividers
- Pink and green highlighters

Essential Reading Material:

OCR A Level History: Russia 1894-1941, by Andrew Holland ISBN 9781510416550

Access to History: The witchcraze of the 17th and 18th centuries by Alan Farmer ISBN 1510459197

Recommended resources:

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