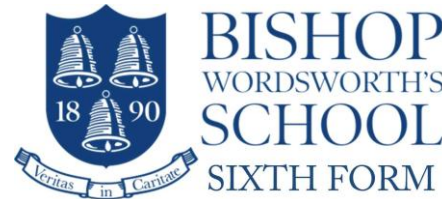


History

AQA Specification



General information:

History is a dynamic subject and you will benefit from and enjoy your courses to the maximum extent if you respond with similar enthusiasm and application. As a historian you will:

- be curious about the past
- be interested in its ever-changing relationship with the present
- be eager to know more about past individuals, societies, ideas, cultures, politics and economics
- really enjoy exploring these through reading, thinking and writing

The courses enable you to study history in breadth as well as in depth, to develop expertise in various skills (general as well as historical) and to acquire and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the periods studied.

The aims of the courses are for you to develop:

- a coherent knowledge of the past – both within and across the topics chosen;
- understanding of historical concepts, and apply this knowledge – including explanation, evidence, interpretations and significance;
- the techniques of critical thinking in a historical context – and the skills necessary to analyse and solve historical problems;
- the ability to communicate historical arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly with reference to appropriate historical terminology.

Course content:

In your first year you will study two units:

1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Part one: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop?
- Why did opposition develop and how effective was it?
- How and with what results did the economy develop and change?
- What was the extent of social and cultural change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Part one: building a new Britain, 1951–1979

This option provides for the study in depth of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.

In the second year, you will take these topics further chronologically as well as producing one piece of coursework, based around a question chosen from a selection on the topic of the Crusades. It will be your supported research piece.

How is the course taught and assessed?

You will have different teachers to cover the different sides of the course. This helps ensure use of available expertise and variety with teaching style. You will be expected to do a good amount of background work and lesson time will be used to help you shape, argue and apply what you have learnt. You can expect to have to work hard independently and as part of a group and will get the most out of lessons if you are prepared to join in with discussions and debates. There are 2 final exam papers, each containing source / extract work and 2 essays.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 6 in GCSE History

Results information:

In 2025, 91.7% of students achieved A* - C grades at A level

Top destinations for students:

There are many and varied options for historians including History at Royal Holloway, History and German at Cambridge, War Studies and History at King's College, London, Law at Bristol and Cardiff, and Classics at Oxford

Beyond the curriculum:

We have an active History Society, run by sixth formers, that regularly invites guest speakers in.

In the past, students have attended lecture days in London; we have taken trips to museums / art galleries and attended the Chalke Valley History Festival days. We have a small group of History "Gurus" who help run a lower school club and mentor GCSE students.