

A-LEVEL HISTORY



INFORMATION
for students and parents

2026 ENTRY

HISTORY

History continues to be a popular A-level choice at The Maynard. It is not only engaging and enjoyable but it is also recognised by the Russell Group as one of their core 'facilitating' subjects for accessing the top universities.

History is more than just practical though. It is about real people and gripping stories. It is about the eras, individuals and issues that have shaped the world around us and our own identities within it.

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

Firstly, for the love of it! A-level History is:

Learning about people: how they interact, the motives and emotions that tear people apart or draw them together for a common cause.

Learning about countries, societies and cultures: in today's world how can you successfully work with, trade with or report on countries if you know nothing of their history and identities?

Learning to locate and handle the facts: to identify truth and recognise myth, propaganda or downright lies.

Learning to deliver your knowledge clearly and persuasively: Giving you the confidence to stand up and be counted!

In choosing History you will be developing skills that are highly rated by universities and employers alike - above all, the skills of analysis, argument, self-discipline, empathy and intellectual independence. The course will also feature the important key skills of communication and information technology.

History is many things but, above all, it's a detective story and a hugely enjoyable one at that!

"When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness"

Alexis de Tocqueville

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by examination and one piece of coursework known as the historical enquiry.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no specific entry requirements and it is not necessary to have studied History at GCSE.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

History can be successfully combined with any other subject. Most recently History has been recognised as complimenting the medical subjects as it pairs the intellectual rigour of a facilitating subject with the 'soft skills' that are increasingly sought after in successful medical applicants.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

As a Russell Group 'facilitating' subject, History is highly regarded by both universities and employers. It is an excellent qualification for a wide variety of careers including business, advertising, public relations, the Law, the Civil Service, journalism and the media, accountancy, insurance and banking.

COURSE CONTENT

Exam Board: Edexcel

There are four units in total: two units in Year 1 and two in Year 2.

Year 1:

Paper 1: Historical Themes in breadth and associated historical controversies.

Students will study a broad period of modern history in order to develop a thematic understanding of the role of individuals, events, ideas, attitudes and beliefs and how these influenced behaviour and action over the period. Your chosen topic will be Germany and West Germany, 1918-1989.

Paper 2: Depth study

Students will study a period of History in order to develop an in-depth understanding of specific events, actions, attitudes and beliefs, their causes and their consequences for the wider nation. Your chosen topic will be The Rise and Fall of Fascism in Italy, 1911-46.

Year 2:

Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth.

Students will undertake a study of at least 100 years of British History to explore the nature of challenges and conflict relating to society in the period studied. Your chosen topic will be Industrialisation and Social Change in Britain, 1759-1928.

Unit 4: Historical Enquiry

This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated at the end of your two year course. You will work with your tutor to undertake your own personal research and enquiry culminating in an assignment of between 3000-4000 words. Your chosen topic will be 'To what extent did Britain experience a social revolution in the 1960s?'

WHAT HAVE STUDENTS SAID ABOUT A-LEVEL HISTORY:

'For the first time I felt I was working as a historian and this has inspired me to carry on with History at university.'



MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18

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