

# History A Level



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A level History at GCH covers a broad range of study, encompassing the history of England, South Africa and Russia and including study of social, political, economic and cultural history. It takes students through momentous changes in England in the early modern period, through the impact of colonialism in South Africa, right up to the global impact on the modern world of the events and consequences of the Russian Revolution. A full overview of the content and assessment of the course is provided overleaf. If you enjoy studying the past and debating issues, then you will very much enjoy this course. In comparison with GCSE History, it offers far greater depth of study and development of student expertise in the areas of study.



## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Peter Wellby

## EMAIL ADDRESS

info@gch.org.uk

## EXAM BOARD

OCR

## SKILLS REQUIRED

- Ability to write fluently and persuasively.
- Critical thinking and close reading of written information.
- Ability to see things from different points of view.
- Analysis of the causes of major events and the changes brought about by them.
- Evaluation of source material and historians' interpretations.
- Ability to undertake independent research.
- Participation in discussions and debates, and delivering of presentations.
- Ability to identify important evidence, see the bigger picture and make connections.

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

British period study and enquiry:

England 1445–1509:  
Lancastrians, Yorkists  
and Henry VII

25% of total A Level

Exam paper

1 hour 30 minutes

Non-British period  
study:

Apartheid and  
Reconciliation:  
South African Politics  
1948–1999

15% of total A Level

Exam paper

1 hour

Thematic study  
and historical  
interpretations:

Russia and its Rulers  
1855–1964

40% of total A Level

Exam paper

2 hours 30 minutes

Topic based essay:

Elizabeth I

3000–4000 word  
coursework essay

20% of total A Level

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

History A Level exam results at The Grey Coat Hospital are outstanding. In 2023, 60% of GCH students achieved A\*-A grades, 92% achieved A\*-B and 100% achieved A\*-C. These figures are far above national averages. Many students went on to study History at university, including 4 to Oxford and Cambridge.



## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We offer the opportunity for all history students to go on an annual Sixth Form trip to Berlin or Florence. On these trips, students have the opportunity to visit, in Berlin, the Berlin Wall, the Jewish Museum, the Reichstag, and Wittenberg; and, in Florence, the museums and galleries, the Duomo, and the Medici Palaces. Trips to support the curriculum are also organised to the National Gallery and National Archives and there is an opportunity to attend a conference on Russia and its Rulers with talks by eminent historians. Sixth form students support younger students by helping with KS3 History Club and mentoring GCSE students. There is also a dedicated sixth form reading group which enables students to develop their interests by reading beyond the curriculum.

## FUTURE CAREERS

There is a great deal of support for students who might want to study history at university at GCH. We regularly advertise and promote a range of university taster days, lectures, open days and summer schools. We provide reading lists and help with writing personal statements. We take students interested in studying history at university on a trip to Oxford University to visit two colleges and attend seminars run by history tutors. We also run specific Oxbridge preparation sessions and mock interviews. Over the last four years, 6 of our students have taken up places to study history at either Oxford or Cambridge.



The Guardian newspaper recently reported on the fact that “History graduates are found in disproportionate numbers on the boards of the UK’s top 100 companies.” The report found that “the most frequently mentioned advantages history graduates displayed were the ability to read quickly and effectively and process large amounts of information, think deeply about a subject, develop cogent arguments and communicate clearly.” Studying History at A Level opens doors to a huge range of future courses and careers.