Vyners School

Striving for Excellence

Welcome to the History Department

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Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum

AQA

"Studying History A Level has fully prepared me for the demands of University"
Year 13 Student

At A Level students have the opportunity to study towards qualifications with AQA. Students will study the following units.

History

- The Tudors, 1485-1603
- The American Dream: Reality and Illusion 1945-1980
- NEA essay based on a topic of pupil's choosing.

THE TUDORS - TOPICS

Characters of Tudor monarchs including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I

Henry VIII and the Reformation of the Church in England

Elizabeth and the Spanish Armada

Relationships monarchs had with other countries

Economic changes under Tudor monarchs

THE AMERICAN DREAM: REALITY OR ILLUSION - TOPICS

The emergence of USA as a Superpower
The Cold War
African-Americans conquest for Civil Rights
Economic changes – introduction of a 'consumer' society
Vietnam War
USAs relations with other countries such as Iraq, China, USSR

- What is the NEA?
- The NEA is a non-examined piece of work which you will create independently.
- It will be approximately 3500 words in length.
- It is worth 20% of the overall A-Level.
- It will answer a question which you have created on a period of history which is roughly 100 years in length
- How is it assessed?
- The NEA will be marked by your lead History teacher (this could be anyone in the History dept depending on which topic you choose). The work will then be internally moderated and sent to AQA.

Why choose History at A-Level?

It's a facilitating subject – meaning if you want to get into a top university they will respect this degree!

History has shaped the society we live in today – the more you study it, the better your understanding will be!

History helps us to understand that information shouldn't be accepted at face value, but tested and disputed

It is crucial in so many career paths to be able to formulate and reason an argument – which is what the study of history is built on

Being able to write and speak fluently are important skills and are fundamental to the study of history

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What do we study in History?*

We study everything about the past! We study why people have moved to the UK, how people have fought for their rights, how Britain has had an impact on the world, how global events have had their impact on Britain. We even study what it was like to be at Vyners 60 years ago!

2. *How diverse is the History Curriculum*

The History department are determined to reflect how diverse the past is. We have included specific topics on Women's history, migration and black british history but we also make sure that every lesson includes a range of voices from the past.

Frequently Asked Questions

3. What Home learning is required?

We use home learning to prepare for lessons so that more exciting conversations and debates can happen. We also use home learning to delve deeper into the past and find out about the complexities of the topics we study.

4. How will my child be challenged in History lessons?

The History department uses up to date historical scholarship as the foundation of our curriculum. This means that students are constantly engaging with and challenging interpretations of the past.

5. What is History useful for?

The study of History fosters critical thinking, evaluation and argument. They are vital skills for an emerging economy where the ability to interpret evidence and present it to others is highly desirable. Alongside History, Students go on to study Law, Medicine & PPE at university.

We look forward to meeting you in September!