



# Edexcel A Level History

*"If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."*

*Michael Crichton*

## Subject Information

History helps students understand the world they are in and their place in it. Knowledge of the past is essential to understanding and judging current events and participating in current debates- the past teaches us about the present. By studying the past, it guides future decisions. Our topics of Russia, China and the British Empire are all extremely relevant to why the world is the way it is today. The Edexcel A Level course builds on what has been taught at GCSE, and students will see similarities with their GCSE studies. However, students relish the opportunity to delve far deeper into topics and really grapple with the ideas of notable historians. Students develop their disciplinary knowledge through extended source and interpretation analysis. The coursework element of A Level History develops students' independent study. An A Level History course is therefore varied and great fun!

## Career Pathways

History is nationally one of the most popular subjects to study at A Level as well as being a facilitating subject. Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses. An A Level in History can lead to a range of different careers including law, politics, journalism, teaching, consultancy, accountancy and the media. However, the focus on independent research and extended writing helps History to be considered as a highly academic A Level which equips you with skills that are both useful for further study of any discipline at undergraduate level and which are desired by many employers. It can also of course go on to studying a degree in history.

## Course Content

Units	Exam Time	Weighting
Paper 1: Russia, 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin	2 hours 15 minutes	30%
Paper 2: Mao's China, 1949-76	1 hour 30 minutes	20%
Paper 3: Britain: Losing and gaining an empire, 1763-1914	2 hours 15 minutes	30%
Coursework	N/A	20%

**Entry Requirements:** Grade 5 or above in History

**Complementary subjects:** History works well with any subject due to its focus on independent research and extended writing. A class of historians is therefore often made up of students studying a range of different A Levels. The course does have crossover with Politics and English Literature.

**Excellence in thinking:** There is a vast array of academic books in the Avonbourne History Library.