

# AS/A2 Level HISTORY



## Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course

2010/11

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This course would suit those students with inquiring, critical and analytical minds who also enjoy making decisions and doing research for themselves on topics that interest them.

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### Subject introduction

The History AS/A Level syllabus at SEEVIC College has been designed to provide students interested in the past with variety, choice and an opportunity to develop vital lifelong skills in communication, evaluation, analysis and research. Successful History students will have acquired plenty of evidence of these skills and will thus be well prepared for a wide range of jobs or for Higher Education. History combines very well with any of the other humanities and social science subjects, yet can also be an ideal contrasting subject for scientists and mathematicians.

### Year 1 study outline

The two units that make up the AS course are both assessed by examination. Unit One will focus on the early to mid twentieth century and will involve the study of some of the key events, ideas, attitudes and beliefs that shaped two of the world's great powers (Russia and USA) during this period. Unit two involves an in-depth study of Britain at war between 1854 and 1929. Interpretation and evaluation of sources will form a big part of the assessment of this unit.

These topics are taught through the use of specially designed books, extracts from primary evidence, group work, class discussion and research using ICT. No prior knowledge is expected but the course does build on the short essay writing and document evaluation skills developed at GCSE (although GCSE History is not an essential qualification if your English is good).

It is our hope that AS History students will come to see the study of the past as a dynamic and exciting process in which traditional interpretations are constantly being challenged and revised.

### Year 2 study outline

The A2 year involves a study of one issue over a period of 100 years. We have chosen to look at the dramatic growth of Irish nationalism from 1815 to the creation of the Irish Free State in 1921/22.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

This period encompasses the 'Great Famine' of the late 1840s, the Irish war of independence of 1919-21 and the civil war of 1922. This first A2 unit is assessed by coursework.

The fourth and final unit takes a close look at German History 'From Kaiser (1900) to Führer (1945)' and considers controversies such as: 'To what extent was Germany responsible for the outbreak of the First World War?' and 'How popular and efficient was the Nazi regime in the years 1933-1939?'

### Methods of study

History students, particularly those who go on to A2, need access to a good range of books for research. SEEVIC College has one of the best specialist A Level History book collections of any educational establishment in the county and the College can also provide students with access to the inter-library loan service, a range of specialist periodicals and the Internet. History is not just about research, most topics excite real debate and controversy so students will have opportunities for group work and whole class discussion.

### Special features

Students will attend at least one academic conference in London to hear some of the leading authorities on the topics of their units (e.g.: Professor Ian Kershaw on Hitler).

### Subject combinations and careers

Many past students have combined History with subjects like English, Law, Politics, Philosophy, Sociology and Economics but it has also offered a great challenge and refreshing variety to the programmes of able scientists. History is an excellent subject for those thinking of careers in the law, the media, teaching and indeed any job that demands the ability to communicate effectively and to evaluate and analyse complex data.

### Success stories

Many SEEVIC College History students progress to university. In recent years an A grade in History has helped such students onto degrees in Law, Medicine, History and many other subjects. Former SEEVIC College History students can be found at most of the top universities in the UK.

### Methods of assessment

**AS** – Two examinations, both eighty minutes long, based on source evaluation and short essays.

**A2** – Unit 3 – One 2 hour examination, Unit 4 – 2 extended coursework essays.