



WESTONBIRT
— SCHOOL —

HISTORY A-LEVEL

Exam Board - OCR

What can I expect from this subject?

Other subjects teach you the answers, but history teaches you to ask the questions. During the course, students learn how to evaluate evidence, assess the significance of events & individuals, produce informed arguments and plan a comprehensive historical investigation. Our two-year A-Level History course helps you to develop a range of skills that will enable you to understand past issues in terms of their causation, significance and how events piece together. We start by looking at the system of apartheid in South Africa and how this unjust practice came into being as well as what life was like in this regime and how it broke down. The breadth of your study is then widened with a study of the later Tudor monarchs and their rule. Year 13 builds upon these units with a study of the Middle East between 1908 and 2011.

Examination: 80%

Coursework: 20%

What can I do to prepare for this course?

Keep an eye on the news, especially concerning events in the Middle East and South Africa. Have a look on YouTube for any interesting lectures (by people such as Avi Shlaim or Ilan Pappé). There are lots of podcasts on a range of historical topics. Read some historical fiction, such as 'Wolf Hall', any by Robert Harris, The Kite Runner, etc.

What will my next steps be?

Many of our students have gone on to read straight history, international relations, law, international development and journalism at university. History equips you especially well to challenge evidence, form logical and well-reasoned arguments, which makes it a well-suited subject for a broad range of subjects.