



# History Curriculum

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*“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” George Santayana*

## Overview

The history team at St Wilfrid’s strive to use an enquiry based approach to the subject that, in addition to fuelling a passion to understand past events, encourages students to think for themselves, to ask questions, to form their own opinions and challenge the ideas of others in an informed way.

## Key Stage 3

History is taught in Years 7, 8 and 9. Subject content is varied with a mix of British and global topics. In Year 7 these topics include the changing nature of power in Britain over a 4,000 year period and the Middle Ages. In Year 8, topics include a study of the Tudor Dynasty, the English Civil War and the Industrial Revolution. In Year 9, students will investigate the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the development of the Civil Rights’ Movement in the USA. In addition, we cover 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century European and World history and focus on issues such as the causes of World War One, the reasons men ‘joined up’ and an examination of the fighting in World War One. We also examine concepts such as the use of propaganda, democracy, dictatorship, communism and fascism, as well as modern day terrorism.

## Key Stage 4

GCSE history is an optional subject in Years 10 and 11. We follow the OCR ‘B’ Modern World specification. This has four units that cover a range of topics from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- Unit A010: Germany 1919-1945 (Controlled Assessment task)
- Unit A013: The Cold War (The early events of the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War)
- Unit A013: An American Depth Study (1919 – 1941), including; 1920s America, The Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression
- Unit A022: A British Depth Study: The transformation of British society 1939-75 (Sources based enquiry)

Examination is via two written papers. Paper 1 (The Cold War and American Depth Study) carry 45% of the overall marks. Paper 2 (The British Depth Study) carries 30% of the overall mark and the controlled assessment makes up the final 25% of the overall mark.

## Key Stage 5

Modern history is also offered at AS and A2 level. We follow the Edexcel ‘GCE in History’ specification. The units covered offer students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of some topics whilst also offering new areas of inquiry. The full A-level course has four units in total. Alternatively, students can choose to follow the course for just one year and gain an AS qualification made up of two units.

## AS

- Unit 1:** This unit comprises two modules that examine life in Mao’s China (1949-1976). This module analyses whether Mao was a tyrant or a reformer. The second module examines the fight for Civil Rights in the United States (1945-1968). This module examines how much had been achieved by the Civil Rights’ Movement by 1968. This unit is assessed by essay-based examination, with students having to complete one essay on each topic.
- Unit 2:** This unit examines the consensus and conflict in British Politics (1945-1990). The exam is a source based exam.



## A2

**Unit 3:** Superpower relations 1944-1990. This unit examines the origins and development of the Cold War and the causes of the “end of history” when communism collapsed throughout Eastern Europe and the USSR in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It is assessed through one written examination.

**Unit 4:** In this unit students will complete a two part coursework assignment totalling 4,000 words on a topic of their choice. Part A is an extended essay with a specific, individual focus. Part B is an essay that sets a selected event in a wider historical context. Both pieces carry an equal weighting of marks.

*It should be noted that from September 2015 the A Level syllabus will be changing. There will be three areas of study: The Cold War (1944-1991), The Tudors (1485-1603) and coursework that covers Russian History from 1800-2000*

### **1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603 (A Study in Breadth)**

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
- In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
- How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?
- How did English society and economy change and with what effects?
- How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

### **2R The Cold War, c1945–1991 (A Study in Depth)**

This option provides for the study in depth of the evolving course of international relations during an era of tension between communist and capitalist powers which threatened nuclear Armageddon. It explores concepts such as communism and anti-communism, aggression and détente and also encourages students to reflect on the power of modern military technology, what hastens confrontation and what forces promote peace in the modern world.

### **Historical Investigation (Coursework)**

The purpose of the Historical Investigation is to enable students to develop the skills, knowledge and historical understanding acquired through the study of the examined components of the specification. Through undertaking the Historical Investigation students will develop an enhanced understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work.

AS students will take two 90 minute written exams at the end of Year 12. Students who continue into Year 13 will also have two written exams (both two hours 30 minutes), plus their coursework that will count towards their overall grade.

**Subject Leader:** Mr Matt Pitman

**Department Website:** <http://history.stwilfrids.com/>