

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>HISTORY</b>
<b>Title of GCE:</b>	<b>A Level</b>
<b>Exam Board:</b>	<b>AQA</b>
<b>Syllabus Number:</b>	<b>7042</b>

### **Course Overview:**

#### **Paper 1: Breadth Study: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964**

In year 12 students will study the government of Russia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the events leading to the Russian Revolution in 1917. In year 13 the course will cover the development of Russia as a Communist state from 1917 until 1964 with a particular focus on the leadership of Lenin and Stalin.

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions: How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop? Why did opposition develop and how effective was it? How and with what results did the economy develop and change? What was the extent of social and cultural change? How important were ideas and ideology? How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments? Key events and individuals you will study include; the impact of the Crimean War, Alexander II, Alexander III, Tsar; Nicholas II Impact of the 1905 Revolution and the First World War. The 1917 revolution, Bolshevik takeover. Stalin, Lenin Khrushchev and The Cold War.

#### **Paper 2: Depth Study: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007**

The Making of Modern Britain 1551-2007 option allows you the opportunity to study in depth the key political, economic, social and international changes which have helped to shape Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages reflection on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.

In year 12 students will study post-war Britain from 1951-1979. They will consider the political, social and economic impact of the Second World War and the effect this had on Britain's global status. In year 13 the focus will be on the development of modern Britain between 1979-2007, considering the impact of Thatcherism and the era of New Labour.

Firstly you have the opportunity to study Britain in the 1950's. You will consider why people were better off and the impact of this on their lives. Themes include; Conservative dominance, domestic policies and internal Labour divisions.. You will study economic developments and the post-war boom. Social themes include rising living standards; the impact of affluence and consumerism; changing social attitudes and tensions; class and 'the Establishment'; the position of women; attitudes to immigration; racial violence; the emergence of the 'teenager' and youth culture. In Foreign relations the course focuses on attempts to join the EEC; relations with the USA and USSR and debates over the nuclear deterrent. You will look at the 1960s and consider social and cultural change in this period; the expansion of the mass media; growth in leisure activities; the impact of scientific developments; the reduction in censorship; progress towards female equality; changes in moral attitudes; youth culture and the 'permissive society'; anti-Vietnam war riots; issues of immigration and race and all themes covered. In the 1970's the focus moves to the miners' strikes; the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland, the progress of feminism; the Sex Discrimination Act; race and immigration; youth; environmentalism and Britain's entry into and relations with Europe. Finally there is a chance to study the controversial figures of Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair, to look at their governments in the 1980's and 90's and to consider their social, political, economic and military legacies.

**A Level Assessment:****Paper 1: Breadth Study:** Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

2 ½ hour exam. Worth 40% of A level

**Paper 2: Depth Study:** The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

2 ½ hour exam. Worth 40% of A level

**Coursework/Controlled Assessment:**

Historical Investigation: An independent study.

Worth 20% of A-level.

**Brief outline of coursework/controlled assessments:**

For the Historical Investigation (NEA) students will have a series of lessons looking at the abolition of slavery in the British Empire between 1728-1833 and will then be given an essay question to investigate in more depth. Students will be required to carry out independent research, select their own source material, read various interpretations and produce a 4500 word essay in answer to their chosen question.

**Career Opportunities:**

History is a highly valued and well respected A level. The skills and knowledge developed through the study of history can lead students into a wide variety of careers including archaeology, public relations, media, journalism, law, business, teaching and politics.

**Students who study this subject often complement it with:**

English Literature, Sociology, Psychology, Art, Politics

**Useful revision websites:**

<http://spartacus-educational.com/>

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history>

[www.historytoday.com](http://www.historytoday.com)

**For more information or advice contact:**

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