

# History

## A level

### What will I study and learn?

BGS offers two different History choices through the AQA course:

#### History 1: Medieval and Early Modern History

If you choose History 1, you will study The Age of the Crusades c1071–1204, and Religious Conflict and the Church in England 1529–1570. You will also be required to produce a historical investigation focusing on the Inca Empire and the Rise of Spain, although an investigation into a different topic area may also be permitted.

#### History 2: Modern British and World History

If you choose to study History 2, you will look at Industrialisation and the People: Britain c1783–1885, and The American Dream: Illusion and Reality, 1945–1980. You will also produce a modern historical investigation centered on the Northern Ireland in the twentieth century, although an investigation into a different topic area may be permitted.

### What skills should I have and what will be developed?

Studying History at A level will help you to develop a range of key skills that will be much sought after both at university and in the working world. In class you will be expected to participate in discussion and sometimes present on topics. You will learn to analyse and evaluate information and build balanced and supported arguments.

### How will I be assessed?

#### Historical investigation (20%)

- A 3,500–4,500 word independently researched project of a taught component.

#### Examinations 1 and 2 (80%)

- Two equally weighted exams that are sat at the end of the Upper Sixth and contain a mixture of historical source analysis and essay writing.

## A level/IB

We have a wide range of activities, guest speakers and trips on offer through both the History Department and affiliated History Society. In recent years Sixth Form History students have visited Northern Island, London, Spain and the USA, as well as a whole host of destinations closer to home.

History is regarded by all universities as a strong subject, and one that has

retained its academic integrity. It opens doors and closes none. History graduates go on to work in a huge range of fields including law, business, the civil service, politics, journalism, and many more. History offers students the opportunity to study other people's contexts, beliefs and actions – so important in the world we inhabit today.

### Entry requirements

History is a literary subject, so a willingness to read, write, argue and explain is a must. It is normal to have gained a high grade in GCSE History, however, well-motivated students who are likely to achieve good GCSE results in other humanities subjects, especially English, will also be considered.



## IB

### What will I study and learn?

There is a modern history focus to our IB course.

If you choose the standard level course, you will study The Move to Global War, Authoritarian States, and the Causes and Effects of Twentieth-century Wars.

If you choose to take the higher level course, you will study Britain 1815–1914, European States in the Inter War Years and Diplomacy in Europe 1919-39, in addition to the standard level units.

### How will I be assessed?

As the IB is linear, all examinations are at the end of the Upper Sixth:

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| <b>SL</b>  |
| <b>External exams 1 and 2</b><br>(75%)   |
| <b>Internal assessment</b><br>(25%)  |
| A 2,200-word historical investigation into a topic area of the student's choice. |
| <b>HL</b>  |
| <b>External exams 1, 2 and 3</b><br>(80%)  |
| <b>Internal assessment</b><br>(20%)  |
| A 2,200-word historical investigation into a topic area of the student's choice. |

### What skills will be developed?

Studying History as part of the IB Diploma will help develop your key skills of critical analysis and evaluation, as well as enhancing your ability to argue, explain, substantiate and present. A key focus of the IB is international-mindedness – a valuable and much needed commodity in today's society.

### Want to know more?

Mr Charles Pearson  
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Exam Board:  
[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)  
[www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

“History has enhanced my essay-writing skills and helped me to appreciate how our society has developed into what it is today. We have a lot of discussions and debates in the lessons, which are incredibly engaging.

Megan Williams, OB 2020  
Courses: History, Physical Education and Psychology