

## A-Level History

Welcome to A-Level History.

Congratulations on making an excellent choice of subject to continue your journey in education. Over the next two years you are going to meet remarkable people, travel to far flung places and dive deep into the causes and consequences of events that shaped and continue to shape our country and our planet.

We will start at the end of the Middle Ages when a jumped up Welsh noblemen seized the English throne by force, killing the reigning monarch. Then we will explore how, with the odds stacked against him, Henry Tudor was able to lay the foundations of the Tudor dynasty. Later in the year, you will explore the ways in which his son, Henry VIII, navigated the politics of religion, rebellion and court faction, before exploring the short reigns of his children, Edward and Mary.

As you learn about Tudor England, you will also start your study of Russia before and after the 1917 Revolution, first gaining familiarity with the Russian Empire under the Tsar before evaluating the impact of the First World War and the revolution on Russian economic and social life. The course will then follow the rule of first Lenin and then Stalin over the new communist state.

At the end of Year 12 you will start planning your A-Level coursework. This is the culmination of the History journey that you began back in primary school - finally, in Year 13, you will be able to choose your own topic and your own question and do your own independent research to produce a 3,000-4,000 coursework essay.

As you continue your coursework into Year 13, most of your lesson time will be spent studying your final unit: the British Empire 1857-1965. As part of this course, we will engage with the big questions of imperial historiography: why did the empire expand so rapidly in the 19th century? How unified was British rule? What did British rule mean for the people it ruled over from Jamaica to New Zealand? How did people in these places resist and eventually overthrow British rule? And what did the global events of this period - the First and Second World Wars, the economic crisis of the 1930s, the rise of communism and the Cold War, and so on - mean for British rule and the people of the empire? Along the way we will complete depth studies of three places - India in 1857, Palestine between the wars, and Kenya after the Second World War - and explore different interpretations of the events that happened there.

**Mr E Durbin** - Lead Practitioner in History (I will teach you about the Tudors and the British Empire and help you with your coursework)

**Mr B Bowles** - Teacher of History (I will teach you about Russia and help you with your coursework)

### Understanding the course

Specification	A Level History (OCR): <a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf">https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf</a>
Exams	<b>Unit 1: British Period Study and Enquiry (England 1485-1547 and Mid Tudor Crises 1547-1558) [Y106]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25% of A-Level</li><li>• Taught in Year 12</li><li>• Assessed in a 90-minute exam at the end of Year 13</li></ul>

	<p><b>Unit 2: Non-British Period Study (Russia 1894-1941) [Y219]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% of A-Level</li> <li>• Taught in Year 12</li> <li>• Assessed in a 60-minute exam at the end of Year 13</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit 3: Thematic Study and Historical Interpretations (From Colonialism to Independence: The British Empire 1857-1965) [Y320]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40% of A-Level</li> <li>• Taught in Year 13</li> <li>• Assessed in a 2 hour 30 min exam at the end of Year 13</li> </ul> <p><b>Topic Based Essay (a 3000-4000 essay on a historical topic of your choice) [Y100]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% of A-Level</li> <li>• Researched and written in Summer of Year 12 and Year 13</li> <li>• Submitted after Christmas in Year 13</li> </ul>
Teacher	<p>Mr Durbin (<a href="mailto:edurbin@yateacademy.co.uk">edurbin@yateacademy.co.uk</a>)                  Mr Bowles (<a href="mailto:bbowles@yateacademy.co.uk">bbowles@yateacademy.co.uk</a>)</p>

### Course requirements

Please come prepared to your first lesson with the following materials:

- Pencil case with black pens, ruler and highlighters
- 2 x lever arch folders (one for Tudors, one for Russia)
- 1 blank, lined exercise book for independent study
- A diary or planner to record homework requirements

We will provide you with a copy of the textbooks for this course.

### Summer bridging work

To ensure you start the year as successfully as possible, please come to your first lesson having completed the following tasks.

### Consolidate Task

Task	Time expected	Complete
<p><b>Consolidate your History learning to this point</b></p> <p>On an A3 sheet of paper, create a timeline that starts at 0 and ends in 2025.</p> <p>On the timeline, mark all of the historical topics and events that you have studied since Year 7, including your GCSE units and the A-Level units marked above.</p>	1 hour	

**Apply Task**

Task	Time expected	Complete
<p><b>Introduction to Tudor England (to be handed in to Mr Durbin):</b></p> <p>a. Henry VII took the throne after a chaotic period known as the Wars of the Roses. Read <a href="#">these textbook pages about the Wars of the Roses</a> and complete the tasks below.</p> <p>b. Create a timeline showing key dates and events between 1422 and 1485.</p> <p>c. Create A4 fact files about the following individuals based on the reading and your own research:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Henry VI</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Richard of York</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Margaret of Anjou</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Edward IV</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Edward V</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Richard III</p>	<p>2 hours</p>	
<p><b>2. Introduction to Russia in 1894 (to be handed in to Mr Bowles):</b></p> <p>a. Read this <a href="#">introduction to Russia in 1894</a>. Create your own spider diagram of issues facing Russia in 1894, summarising the points provided for each category.</p> <p>b. Look at some of the photographs in this <a href="#">collection of photographs of the Russian Empire commissioned by Tsar Nicholas II</a>. What can historians learn about the Russian Empire at the start of the 20th century from these sources?</p>	<p>2 hours</p>	

**Extend Task**

Task	Time expected	Complete
<p><b>Russia:</b> Watch the episode of 'Empire of the Tsars':  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b06wrgzw/empire-of-the-tsars-romanov-russia-with-lucy-worsley-3-the-road-to-revolution">https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b06wrgzw/empire-of-the-tsars-romanov-russia-with-lucy-worsley-3-the-road-to-revolution</a>.</p> <p>Write a 500-word summary of the most significant challenges facing Nicholas in 1894.</p>	1 hour	
<p><b>Early Tudors:</b> Watch at least one episode of Lucy Worsley's Six Wives:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0854cjm/six-wives-with-lucy-worsley">https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0854cjm/six-wives-with-lucy-worsley</a></p> <p>For each of Henry VIII's wives, write a 200 word summary of her life and significance to English politics</p>	1-2 hours	