

History Department A Level Rationale

Russia

To give students the knowledge and skills required to access the depth study component a KS5.

OCR A Level History aims

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance.
- Acquire an understanding of different identities in society and an appreciation of aspects, such as social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity as appropriate.
- Build on their understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study.
- Improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds
- Develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them
- Acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements are provisional
- Develop their use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills
- Make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past
- Organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements

YEAR 12	Content Theme	Skills	Rationale
Theme 1	What was Russia Like before 1894?	Developing Contextual understanding	To understand the problems Tsar Nicholas II faced, students need to have a clear picture of what Russia was like before 1894. They will investigate the geographical, social and political factors facing Russia at the end of the 19 th century. Students will also develop an understanding of the reform of Alexander II and III and the impact of their rules on the reign of Tsar Nicholas II. None of this initial theme is a specific requirement of the specification, but is important background for students to grasp the intricacies of this historical period.
Theme 2	The rule of Tsar Nicholas I	Significance Analysis Making Substantiated Judgements	Students will move on to look at the reign of Tsar Nicholas II 1894-1916. They will develop an understanding of the problems Tsar Nicholas II faced and will be expected to make judgements about the relative threat these problems served to his reign. Students will also study economic and agricultural policies during Tsar Nicholas' reign and will need to evaluate the success of these. Finally, students need to draw upon all their knowledge of this period to come to substantiated judgements about the stability of the Tsarist regime on the eve of World War One.
Theme 3	The 1917 Revolution	Significance Analysis Making Substantiated Judgements	The overarching aim here is for students to study the causes, events and outcomes of the two Russian Revolutions in 1917. Students will be asked to analyse the significance of causes to make judgements about why these revolution occurred. They will also need to use their prior knowledge about Russia to investigate the problems facing the provisional Government after the March Revolution.

Theme 4	Civil War and Lenin	Significance Analysis Making Substantiated Judgements	Students will move on to study how Lenin and the Bolshevik Party established power after the November Revolution. Students will need to compare the Bolshevik regime to the promises made before the revolution to draw conclusions about the legitimacy of the revolution and the success of the Bolshevik consolidation of power. Students must the look at the causes, events and outcome of the Civil War 1918-1921. They will need to use this knowledge to answer broad questions about why the Reds won the Civil War and in what way the Civil War affected Bolshevik Policy.
Theme 5	The rule of Stalin	Significance Analysis Making Substantiated Judgements	Students will look at the power struggle after the death of Lenin and will analyse different factors which led to Stalin's victory and draw conclusions about their relative significance. Students will also study the impact that Stalin had on Russia through looking at the key policies of collectivisation, industrialisation and the police state. They will evaluate the relative success of these policies.