

History Department A Level Rationale

To give students the knowledge and skills required to access the thematic study component at KS5.

OCR History A Level 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 13	Content Theme	Skills	Rationale
Theme 1	What was warfare like pre-1792?	Developing contextual understanding	In order for students to grasp the state of warfare from 1792-1945, it is necessary for them to develop some background understanding about the nature of warfare pre-1792. Students will learn how wars were typically fought in the years prior to 1792, focusing on what weapons were used, what role generals played, what tactics were used, etc. This knowledge will serve as the foundation of their future learning. 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	Factors that directly relate to the conduct of war	Significance Analysis Comparison Evaluation of different factors Making substantiated judgements	Students study a range of factors that directly relate to the conduct of war. For each factor the students will be expected to appreciate its importance on both the nature and outcome of wars throughout the period. The different factors are studied in a thematic approach so that students can compare how the significance of each factor fluctuated throughout the period 1792-1945. This is followed by three case studies based around the French Revolutionary Wars, the American Civil War, and the First World War. For each case study, students will develop exam skills on how to approach the interpretation question.
Theme 3	The impact of technological change	Significance Analysis Comparison Evaluation of	In this section of the course students will study how technological change has impacted on the nature and outcome of wars throughout the period 1792-1945, with particular focus on industrialisation, new forms of communication, and new weaponry. This is followed by three case studies based around the French Revolutionary Wars, the American Civil War, and the First World War. For each case study students will develop exam

		different factors Making substantiated judgements	skills on how to approach the interpretation question.
Theme 4	Planning and preparation	Significance Analysis Comparison Evaluation of different factors Making substantiated judgements	Students will learn the impact that planning and preparation had on the nature and outcome of wars throughout the period 1792-1945; this will include a focus on the effectiveness of wartime alliances and war plans as well as the developments in terms of organising and commanding armies. This is followed by three case studies based around the French Revolutionary Wars, the American Civil War, and the First World War. For each case study, students will develop exam skills on how to approach the interpretation question.
Theme 5	The development between domestic factors and warfare	Significance Analysis Comparison Evaluation of different factors Making substantiated judgements	In this final section of the course students will learn how domestic factors affected warfare throughout the period 1792-1945. This will include a focus on how states organised themselves ready for war, the procurement of supplies, recruitment, government intervention, the use of propaganda, public opinion, morale, conscription, manpower, economics and the resourcing of wars. This is followed by three case studies based around the French Revolutionary Wars, the American Civil War, and the First World War. For each case study students will develop exam skills on how to approach the interpretation question.