

# History GCSE

## Why study History?

### INTEREST:

History is an interesting and exciting subject taught by a successful and experienced department. History lessons are enjoyable and encourage students to get involved rather than simply learn a body of knowledge. Lessons use a wide range of thinking skills and techniques which are transferable to other areas of the curriculum including role-play, group and individual project work, ICT, debates and discussion as well as more 'traditional' activities. Crucial to our approach is the notion of History as a thinking, arguing subject based on different kinds of evidence and different points of view.

### SKILLS:

History develops essential skills that young people need to succeed at school and in their future life. History is a well-respected qualification which employers and universities value highly. Interpersonal skills are the single most important skills used in any career. History enables students to think for themselves, to question why we and other people live as we do, to communicate effectively, to understand a wide range of opinions and interpretations, to use a wide range of literacy, numeracy and personal skills to deal with information, to work with people and to think critically about complex issues.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR VISITS:

The History department is committed to providing a range of extra-curricular visits for students and 'history outside the classroom'. At GCSE all students will be offered the chance to visit the First World War battlefields of Belgium and France and the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre.

The History course at GCSE is open to anybody who wants to get some understanding of the world we live in. History is about the world around us and who we are. The skills you develop will benefit you in any walk of life. All you need is interest and enthusiasm and a commitment to work.



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## What will you study?

Students studying History at The Minster School will follow the Edexcel GCSE History specification. This has been designed to allow students to study a variety of different types and periods of history and develop a range of skills. The course will see students tackle social and political history, in local, national and international contexts, and investigate many developments that have shaped our world today.

## ASSESSMENT

### PAPER 1 (30%)

**Medicine in Britain, 1250 to the present**

**A study of the historic environment - The British Sector of the Western Front 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches**

Students will explore the move from supernatural explanations to more rational theories of the causes of disease and illness and examine the changing approaches to prevention and treatment. The historic environment section of the paper will see students explore treatments provided for soldiers on the Western Front, including those suffering from the effects of gas attacks, shrapnel wounds and illness arising from the trench environment.

### PAPER 2 (40%)

**Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-88**

We will explore society in the last years of Edward the Confessor and how William, Duke of Normandy secured victory in the Battle of Hastings. We will also examine revolt and rebellion and changes made to English society under Norman rule.

**The American West, c.1835-1895**

Students will examine the means and motivations for the huge movement westwards in America in the 19th century. They will consider how this migration impacted on those who took part, but also how it led to the destruction of the way of life of one population: the Plains Indians.



### PAPER 3 (30%)

**Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939**

Students will study the failure and collapse of the Weimar Government set up after the First World War and how Hitler managed to build up support for the Nazi Party. We will then study the impact of the Nazi dictatorship on life in Germany.

