

HISTORY (Higher)

What are the aims of this course?

The aim of this course is to foster breadth and depth in the knowledge and understanding of historical themes and to develop skills of explaining historical developments and events, evaluating sources and drawing conclusions.

Learners will develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

Learners should ideally have an A or B National 5 pass at History. Students with a C or D pass may struggle to meet the requirements of the course or will have to work to significantly build on their skills.

Learners may decide to embark upon this course without a History qualification but they should have a good National 5 pass (A or B) in an associated discipline and/or a National 5 pass (A or B) in English.

What content is included in this course?

Paper 1 of the exam is essay focused and covers content from the following areas:

British Context

This aims to look at how political and social changes developed at the beginning of the 20th century by focusing on the following areas:

- An evaluation of why some women gained the vote in 1918.
- An evaluation of why the Liberal Reforms were passed 1906-1914.
- An assessment of how effective the Liberal Reforms (1906-1914) were.
- An assessment of how effective the Labour Reforms (1945-1951) were.
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European and World Context

This aims to look at the changes taking place in the USA during the 20th century. In particular focusing on:

- Changing attitudes to immigration after 1920.
- An evaluation of the obstacles to civil rights before 1940
- An evaluation of the growth of the civil rights movement after 1940
- An assessment of how effective the achievements of the civil rights movement were (1940-1968).

Paper 2 of the exam is source and skills based and covers content from the following area:

Scottish Context

This aims to look at the reasons for the conflict between England and Scotland between 1286-1328 and the developments that took place during this time. We will focus on:

- The death of Alexander III and the subsequent succession crisis
- The relationship between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Edward I of England (1292-1296).
- The continued resistance against the English and the role of William Wallace.
- The rise and triumph of Robert Bruce.

What skills will I develop?

Literacy and essay writing skills are a key part of this course. Students will develop this by constructing logical lines of argument, analysing historical events and forming clear conclusions that are supported with evidence. Students will evaluate historical sources in terms of authorship/origin, possible purpose, content and context and their lessons will lead to participation in debate and discussion. By the end of the course they will be able to adopt a structured approach to the research of a historical issue.

By learning about key events in history, students will then have the ability to understand current events with new perspectives.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

Learners will experience a range of learning experiences and teaching approaches. They will be encouraged to work co-operatively with others and also to work individually to allow opportunities to take responsibility for their learning. The course allows students to access consider and comment on a variety of primary sources, an experience which will benefit all those who wish to move on to Further or Higher Education.

When learning about the content required for essays and source responses, students will make detailed notes from various sources. They will then learn the skills needed to apply their knowledge in a structured and logical way.

How will I be assessed?

The Course Assessment is made up of a question paper and an assignment. The learner's grade will be determined by the Course Assessment.

The exam is split into two papers.

Paper 1: is the British, European and World History paper worth 44 marks split over two essays.

Paper 2: is the Scottish paper worth 36 marks split over 4 source/skills responses.

The assignment is an extended essay chosen by the student and externally assessed. This is worth 30 marks.

Pupils will also be regularly assessed throughout the course.

What are the homework requirements?

Regular and consistent revision of notes is an important factor in the development of skills and is an important factor in eventual success in the external examination. There is a strong expectation to practice skills at home by constructing essays and source responses. These will be regularly marked so that students can use the feedback to improve their skills.