

HISTORY

EXAM BOARD: OCR

3 WRITTEN EXAMS
80%

20%
INDEPENDENT
ESSAY

Why study History?

Here at Stratford upon Avon School the History modules were chosen to play to our strengths and passions as a department. The topics were selected by staff who have a real interest in that time period or topic and wish to impart that to the students. The exam board we selected allows us the flexibility of modules that both gives us a wide breadth of study and a range of topics that offer something really different to the 'traditional' A-Level. At Stratford School the topic based essay, which is the independently researched component in year 13, is entirely chosen and directed by students in consultation with staff.

The students are able to select any topic in history that is of interest to them. Previous essays have ranged from the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire, to whether the Germans were active supporters of the Holocaust.

Subject Specification Outline and Final Exam Format:

| | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Topic-based essay which is an independently researched essay | Alfred and the Making of England 871-1016 | The Cold War in Asia 1945-1993 | Popular Culture: Witchcraze of the 16th & 17th centuries |
| independent essay (20%) | 90 mins (25%) | 60 mins (15%) | 150 mins (40%) |

Progress Assessment:

Structured essays and questions and half-termly assessments.

Self Study Requirements:

Reading around the subject, in particular academic articles and university-level books and a thorough use of other A-Level texts and alternative research opinions. Participation in extracurricular trips to Birmingham University library for research.

Progression Pathways:

A-Level History challenges students' minds and develops independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers. These are all personal qualities that can make them stand out as they progress to higher education and/or the workplace.

History develops:

Communication - the ability to discuss and evaluate key issues in writing is vital to any future success.

Time management - the skill of prioritising work is very important.

Problem solving - History is full of problems that need solving.

Drive and determination - any successful History A-Level student will have shown the drive and determination to succeed.

Our students beyond Stratford:

Gabriel (2025 History)
History, University of Exeter

Natalie (2025 History)
Law, University of Chester

Darcy (2025 History)
Primary Education (5-11) with QTS, Sheffield Hallam

