

History at OLA

"Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it."
Winston Churchill



Specification: Pearson Edexcel (9H10)

This is a two-year A level course, culminating in three examinations and one coursework unit. The specification consists of three taught units:

- **1E: Russia, 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin (30% of the final A level).** Topics studied include - Communist government in the USSR, 1917-85; Industrial and agricultural change, 1917-85; Control of the people, 1917-85; Social developments, 1917-85; What explains the fall of the USSR, c1985-91?
- **2E: Mao's China, 1949-76 (20%).** Topics studied include - Establishing communist rule; Agriculture and industry, 1949-65; The Cultural Revolution and its aftermath, 1966-76; Social and cultural changes, 1949-76.
- **3E.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780-1928 (30%).** Topics studied include - Reform of Parliament; Radical reformers; The Women's Social and Political Union, 1903-14; Trades union militancy, 1915-27.
- **Coursework (20%).** Students complete one 3,000-4,000 piece of coursework in the Upper Sixth. This is based on independent analysis of historians' interpretations of the Chinese Cultural Revolution.



Results

- **2018:** 42% A; 86% A-B; 100% A*-C.
- **2017:** 40% A*; 60% A*-A; 100% A*-C.

Who is suitable for this course?

Study History if:

- You want to know how the world today works.
- You are interested in ideas. For example, you will learn about communist philosophy and concepts of equality, freedom and identity.
- You enjoy debating and are willing to defend your ideas and have them challenged.
- You enjoy reading critically and writing - assessment is based on analytical and evaluative essays.



Where can History lead?

Students following this course gain:

- The ability to analyse and critique the views of people living through big events, as well as challenging historians.
- Highly-developed research skills.
- The ability to put forward your own opinion both orally and in writing.
- Qualities such as empathy and tolerance.

There are a very wide range of career opportunities after studying History, from the media, law and heritage industries to information and finance. Politicians Diane Abbott and Ed Vaizey studied History at university (Cambridge and Oxford respectively), as did television journalists Jeremy Bowen (UCL) and Tom Bradby (Edinburgh), along with Jonathan Ross (SOAS) and Louis Theroux (Oxford).