



HISTORY

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: DR. SPRING
EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION: H505
QUALIFICATION: A-LEVEL



As a study of the record of human achievement and failure – including mankind’s propensity for cruelty and barbarity – History at Truro School provides a richly textured framework for understanding the human condition whilst grappling with moral questions and problems.

Over the course you will develop strong historical skills, including the abilities to analyse original documentary sources, to recognise, extract and evaluate the key evidence in those sources with reference to their provenance, and to weave this evidence together with contextual knowledge to form a convincing analysis of a historical issue.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN LOWER SIXTH

THE LOWER SIXTH SYLLABUS COMPRISES TWO COURSES, TAUGHT IN TANDEM.

The first course surveys eleventh-century and early twelfth-century England (Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035–1087, with Norman England 1087–1107).

In the second course you will learn about The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815.

FIRST COURSE

The turbulent three decades that preceded the Norman invasion

The dramatic events of 1066 (including three turning-point battles)

The long, grim consolidation of Norman power across England

The evolution of Norman government

An additional ‘enquiry’ element focuses on the controversial reign of the Conqueror’s ill-fated successor, William ‘Rufus’

SECOND COURSE

The causes of the French Revolution in 1789, which brought about the birth of modern Europe

The Revolution’s increasingly unstable, destructive course to 1799

The rise to power of the hungrily ambitious Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon’s domination of France as ‘First Consul’ and then ‘Emperor of the French’

The military campaigns that marked Napoleon out as one of history’s ‘great captains’, and his ultimate fall from power

EXCELLENT ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

The teachers in the department are from highly academic backgrounds and have huge subject-specific expertise on the periods that they teach. In addition, the Head of History, Dr Matthew Spring, is an award-winning published historical author, Mrs Collinge is the school’s Head of EPQ, and Mrs Kenward is the school’s Head of Careers.

You will be taught in small groups, in which you and your peers will receive individualised attention and support. You will be challenged to do your very best. Outside of lessons, our generous teachers are willing to go the extra mile with additional contact time to help you succeed. This level of support is reflected in the excellent results that our students receive.

TOP-LEVEL FACILITIES

We have an enormous range of supporting texts and audio-visual material, which we use in our teaching in the Department or lend out to students on request. In undertaking the Upper Sixth coursework module, students will find everything they need within the Department to assemble their research materials – removing an enormous responsibility from their shoulders.

EXTENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Outside of lessons, at lunchtimes and after school, we arrange viewings of documentaries and films that relate to the courses that we teach. We would most strongly encourage you to attend these.

Military affairs feature prominently in the History courses taught at Truro School. The Department’s vast array of resources includes various tactical, operational and strategic simulations that offer invaluable insights into many of the historical issues that the students study. For example, it is not uncommon to find Sixth Form students with Dr Spring on Friday evenings refigiting Napoleon’s campaigns!



History not only immerses you in the cultures of some of the most fascinating societies in human history, but also develops and hones the analytical skills which are vital for success in most career paths. At Truro School the subject benefits from being taught by an excellent team of teachers, who bring passion and a huge depth of understanding to their areas of expertise.

OLIVER

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN UPPER SIXTH

With one teacher, you will study the key changes in warfare between 1792 (the beginning of the French Revolutionary Wars) and 1945 (the end of the Second World War). This ‘synoptic’ course involves the study of four key themes.

Leadership, manpower, strategy and tactics

Technological change

Planning

Domestic issues

You will study these areas through a trio of case studies: the French Revolutionary Wars, the American Civil War and the First World War’s Western Front.

The second teacher oversees the production of your coursework. In this part of the course, you will explore a historical controversy of your choice. The topic can be selected from the range of issues studied as part of either of the Lower Sixth courses, or from a period of particular personal interest to you.

WHERE WILL AN A-LEVEL IN HISTORY TAKE YOU?

Universities look very favourably on History A-Level because of its intellectual rigour and transferable skills. While History A-Level students at Truro School commonly go on to read humanities degrees – particularly History, English and Philosophy – we also educate future law students, scientists and medics. The study of history produces well-rounded thinkers; a report by the Institute for Employment Research in 1998 showed that History ranked fourth in a survey of the degrees held by the directors of FTSE 100 companies.