

History

The study of **History** allows us to better understand our own world, putting key events and experiences into context.

The aim of the History Department is to inspire an intellectual curiosity in the past and provide students with the tools to become critical thinkers who are able to not only work with subject knowledge but can also evaluate and analyse interpretations of the past in order to reach their own, considered judgements.



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Austin Friars exists to provide excellent education inspired by our Augustinian values.
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To that end, we offer a broad curriculum at A Level, which gives students the opportunity to study both medieval and early modern History, allowing us to investigate the political, social, economic and spiritual lives of people in a variety of contexts.

The department uses a variety of strategies to create a stimulating environment in which to engage students. Discussion and debate are central to both topics as they allow for the free flow of ideas and for alternative perspectives and interpretations to be considered. The analysis of contemporary sources is also crucial in understanding and appreciating the lived experiences of people in the past. Throughout the course, students develop their academic confidence through group work and independent study.

1C – The Tudors: England, 1485–1603:

This option constitutes 40% of the A Level and allows students to study in-breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
- In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
- How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?
- How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?
- How did English society and economy change and with what effects?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

L6th - Consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England 1485-1547

- Henry VIII, 1485-1509
- Henry VIII 1509-1547

U6th: England: Turmoil and Triumph 1547-1603

- Instability and consolidation: ‘the Mid-Tudor Crisis’, 1547-1563
- The triumph of Elizabeth, 1563-1603

20 Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918-1945:

This option provides for the study of the period in German history which saw a newly developed democratic form of government give way to the dictatorial Nazi regime.

It explores political concepts such as ‘right’ and ‘left’, nationalism and liberalism as well as ideological concepts such as racialism, anti-Semitism and Social Darwinism.

L6th: The Weimar Republic, 1918-1933

- The Establishment and Early Years of Weimar 1918-1924
- The ‘Golden Age’ of the Weimar Republic, 1924-1928
- The Collapse of Democracy, 1928-1933

U6th: Nazi Germany, 1933-1945

- The Dictatorship, 1933-1939
- The Racial State, 1933-1941
- The Impact of War, 1939-1945

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA):

The Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) is the Historical Investigation, which is worth 20% of A Level.

This consists of one c.4000-word essay. Students will independently investigate a key question or theme from history. The question must consider a period of 80 – 120 years and might focus on, for example, the role and significance of key personalities (assessing their influence in the context of c.100 years); the long-term causes, consequences and significance of important events; change over time; or they could be historiographical, evaluating the conflicting interpretations of a controversial issue over a century or more.

Assessment:

The course is assessed by two exams at the end of the two-year course, along with a non-examined assessment which is assessed in school and moderated externally.

Requirements:

A GCSE pass in History of 6 or above is preferred but not always essential. Students who did not do GCSE History may take it up at A Level with prior approval from the Head of Department.

The Russell Group of leading universities identifies History as a ‘facilitating subject’, that is, it is a subject which facilitates access to the best universities in the country. The study of History at A Level provides students not simply with knowledge and understanding of the past, but also with a range of skills that are applicable to a wide range of degree courses. In the past our A Level historians have gone on to study History as well as a variety of other subjects including Law and Economics.