

QUEEN'S GATE SCHOOL
HISTORY
A-LEVEL GUIDE



WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History helps us understand the forces that shaped the modern world—from the rise and fall of dictatorships to the struggles for democracy and order. It develops curiosity, critical thinking, and a deep appreciation of how past events shape our present. Universities and employers value historians for their ability to analyse, argue, and evaluate complex issues.

In an age of misinformation and rapid change, studying History equips you to question narratives, evaluate evidence, and form your own informed judgements. It is not just about the past, but about understanding the world you live in today.

SKILLS

History is both an academic discipline and a training ground for transferable skills. You will develop:

- Academic skills: Building coherent arguments, analysing primary sources, evaluating differing interpretations, and writing extended essays.
- Transferable skills: Critical thinking, independent research, clear communication, and the ability to assess evidence and make judgements. These are qualities valued by universities and employers in every sector.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY

You will explore four major areas of History, spanning different regions and periods:

We are doing **Route G:- Nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in 20th century Europe.**

	Topic		Nature of questions	Length	%
Paper 1 Themes and interpretations	Germany 1918-89	• The Weimar Republic • The Third Reich • West Germany 1945-89 • The Causes of the Second World War	2 standard essays (choice) and 1 essay evaluating interpretations	2:15 hours	30 %
Paper 2 Depth study	Italy 1911-46	• Giolitti and the Liberal State 1911-18 • The Rise of Fascism and the creation of the Fascist state 1919-26 • The Fascist state 1925-40 • The Challenges to and fall of the Fascist state 1935-46.	One essay on utility of sources One essay (choice)	1:30 hours	20 %
Paper 3 British History	Rebellion & disorder in Tudor England 1485-1603	• Henry VII • Henry VIII • Edward • Elizabeth	One essay on utility of sources 2 standard essays (choice)	2:15 hours	30 %
Unit 4 Coursework	Pupils must submit an independently researched and written essay of 3,000-4,000 words. The question must focus on an issue that has generated disagreement among historians.				20 %

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum Grade 7 at History GCSE is advised, to ensure you have the confidence in your writing and analytical skills to succeed. However, you may be able to take the A Level with a lower grade: please discuss this with your History teacher. If you have not done History GCSE but are considering the A Level, please talk with your History teacher – experience and skill with essay subjects is vital.

FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS

History students regularly progress to leading universities, including Russell Group institutions, to study History, Politics, Law, and related subjects. Our recent historians have gone on to careers in law, journalism, teaching, the civil service, business, and beyond. The skills you gain are highly transferable, opening doors to a wide range of professions.

FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS

“History has easily been one of the most rewarding subjects I’ve taken. The discussions, the depth and the passion from the teachers make it genuinely enjoyable. History isn’t just about dates; it’s about understanding how past events shape the world we live in today.”

“Studying at History at Queen’s Gate has taught me how to write critically and enabled me to draw parallels between past and present events; I’ve found my understanding of current affairs enriched and my writing style greatly develop.”

MARK SCHEMES

All the questions will be out of 20.

Standard essays will be marked on this basis:-

Level	A Level	
1	1-3	Generalised statements
2	4-7	Descriptive statement relevant to topic but limited analysis and not clearly linked to question.
3	8-12	Descriptive passages but some attempt at analysis and linking to question
4	13-16	Key issues relevant to the question are explored by an analysis of the relationships between the key features of the period but treatment may be uneven.
5	17-20	Key issues relevant to question are explored by a sustained analysis of the relationships between the key features of period

Questions involving sources will be marked on this basis:-

Level	A Level	
1	1-3	Limited understanding or knowledge of the sources.
2	4-7	Generic, undeveloped statements about how useful the sources are.
3	8-12	Some good ideas about how useful sources are, but these are not fully explained in your answer.
4	13-16	Good analysis of the sources, their provenance and their usefulness, but this has not been done consistently.
5	17-20	KeExcellent consistent analysis of both sources, where they have come from, and how they can be used by historians.

SKILLS

AO1	Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate, make substantiated judgements exploring cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance	50 %
AO2	Analyse and evaluate source material	20 %
AO3	Evaluate interpretations	30 %

ESSAYS

Most of your assessment will be in the form of essays. Your main homework tasks therefore will be writing essays. Other homework tasks might include reading for your next lesson, or preparing a book presentation.

Remember that the crucial thing in any essay is to **answer the question**. Your points must be divided into paragraphs and supported by precise factual detail.

A typical essay will look something like this:

How successful was Mussolini's Economic policy?