Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

History

Entry Requirement:

*GCSE History, grade 6, **OR**, if not studied at GCSE, GCSE English Language or Literature, grade 5*

Awarding body: Edexcel

About the subject: The study of History in the Sixth Form attracts those who have an enquiring mind, a passion in the past and its relevance to the present, and an ability to communicate ideas effectively and with enthusiasm. The A Level course offers students the opportunity to study history in breadth as well as in depth, developing knowledge and understanding of significant events, individuals and issues, as well as a range of historical perspectives and continuity and change over a period of time.

The Department welcomes students who choose History simply for the love of the subject, but those who study History at A Level develop the necessary skills in analysis, synthesis, presentation and communication which will allow access to a wide range of higher education opportunities and will provide a firm foundation for many popular and rewarding careers including journalism, law, the civil service, local government, the heritage and leisure industry, media, education and the world of business.

About the Course

The History Department offers a course in modern History in Year 12 and is taught in collaboration with Spalding High School across both sites. It is Route H on the Edexcel syllabus and focuses on the theme of democracies in change in the twentieth century, fundamental to our understanding of power and politics in the modern world. This theme is explored through studies of both Britain and the United States of America. In Year 13, the expertise that we have between Spalding Grammar School and Spalding High School allows us to offer students a choice between a study of the British Empire in the years 1763-1914 or of Tudor England in the years, 1485-1603.

The course is composed of four units:

Unit 1 (Year 12, 30% of the qualification): A thematic study of Britain 1918-1997, including themes of changing political climate, society in change and standard of living. In addition, there is an in-depth study of the differing interpretations of Margaret Thatcher.
Unit 2 (Year 12, 20% of the qualification): An in-depth examination of America 1920-55, exploring the impact of economic boom and crash. The effects of World War Two and the early Cold War on American society and culture are examined in the later topics.
Unit 3 (Year 13, 30% of the qualification): EITHER "Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603": An overview of the changes in governance in the Tudor period with in-depth studies analysing the challenges of specific rebellions faced by the Tudor Monarchs
OR "Britain, losing and gaining an Empire 1763-1914": An overview of the growth and importance of Britain's trade and navy during the period and a study of some of her colonies in depth, for example, the loss of the American colonies and the birth of Australia as a British colony.
Unit 4 (Year 13, coursework, 20% of the qualification): One assignment which assesses the ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations. Students have the option of choosing a question that reflects their real areas of interest in History.

Assessment

Assessment will be by means of external written examinations in each of the first three units, plus the coursework unit which will be internally assessed and externally moderated.