

## History

The broad aims of the A-level history course are to stimulate intellectual curiosity and independent thinking, and to develop critical, research and communication skills.

More specifically, students are encouraged to:

- deploy analytical concepts and terminology in order to understand the past;
- understand and appreciate different value systems and attitudes, and therefore to respect the choices others have made;
- evaluate and use a range of sources critically within their historical contexts;
- research and resolve historical problems independently;
- express themselves confidently by being able to present, both in writing and orally, a coherent argument supported by relevant evidence.

This A-level course requires students to take three units over two years of study. We follow the AQA A-level specification, which is designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals and the nature of change over time. Students from St Swithun's have gone on to study history at leading universities, such as Oxford and LSE; combining History with another subject, such as politics, economics or languages, is also an increasingly popular option.

### **Component 1: Breadth Study**

#### ***The Tudors: England, 1485-1603***

one exam at the end of U6

worth 40% of the A-level

### **Component 2: Depth Study**

#### ***Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917-1953***

one exam at the end of U6

worth 40% of the A-level

### **Component 3: Historical Investigation**

#### ***The Age of the Crusades, c.1095-1204***

a personal study in response to a question of student's choice set within the course topic

essay of 3,500 to 4,500 words

marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

worth 20% of the A-level

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