



PEMBROKE  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

# AQA GCSE History



## Why should I study GCSE History?



History is interesting! It is the story of us; how the world was shaped and how the past influences the world of the future. Studying GCSE History enhances critical thinking skills through the analysis of historical events and evidence. It provides a global perspective, fostering an understanding of diverse cultures and societies. History contributes to informed citizenship by offering insights into the forces that have shaped societies. History also supports personal development, deepening one's sense of identity and building a lifelong love of learning.

## What will I study?

GCSE History is studied in four elements:



**Paper 1: Period Study. America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality.** This unit focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change, when some Americans lived the 'American Dream' whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice.

**Paper 1: Wider World Depth Study: Conflict and Tension: the inter-war years, 1918-1939.** This unit focuses on the period in-between the First and Second World Wars. Students assess the post-WW1 treaties and their impact on Europe, as well as evaluate the work of the League of Nations and why various factors contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

**Paper 2: Thematic Study, Health and the People.** This unit is a study in development; investigating over many centuries how knowledge of disease, prevention and treatments increased. In addition, students will explain how governments and individuals contributed to an overall improvement in public health.

**Paper 2: British Depth Study, including the historic environment: Norman England c.1066-c.1100.** This unit will study the arrival of the Normans and the establishment of their rule. The historic environment is a depth study of a specific site linked to a feature of the Norman's unit. The site changes each year.

## How will I be assessed?



GCSE History is assessed in two examinations at the end of the two-year course.

- Paper 1: Period and world depth studies. Examination lasting 2 hours. Worth 50% of final grade.
- Paper 2: Thematic study and British depth study. Examination lasting 2 hours. Worth 50% of final grade.

## Which skills will I develop and use?



In addition to studying a wide range of fascinating historic periods, you'll learn a range of skills that will help you with A-levels and future work in. These include:

- Critical Thinking skills: analysis and interpretation of information.
- Research, investigation and communication skills: learning how to effectively construct and present an argument, orally and in writing
- Problem-solving skills: considering different perspectives to find solutions to complex situations
- Curating a global perspective and appreciation of the diverse nature of the world

## How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The skills acquired through the study of History at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subjects post 16, in particular history, law, politics, sociology, English and media.

History is very useful for the world of work. Its study helps create the skills needed by: Solicitors & Barristers; Politicians; Business men & women; TV presenters; Police officers; Comedians; Computer game designers; Teachers. In fact, the skills you develop while studying History can be used in ANY occupation.