

Course title: History A Level OCR

Academic year:	2026
Course Venue:	Blessed William Howard Catholic High School
Course Type:	A Level
Duration:	2 years

Course Description: This qualification will develop both critical and reflective thinking with an understanding of historical topics and issues; it will also encourage an awareness of the importance of historical awareness in explaining contemporary issues.

History A-level provides a fantastic curriculum to ignite and engage learners' passions and interests. Our content will create independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers – all personal assets that can make them stand out as they progress to higher education and/or the workplace.

A Level History challenges students' minds and develops their abilities in a number of key ways: Research, analysis, communication, Time management, ICT, working with others, problem solving, as well as planning and organising.

Course Content:

Unit 1: England 1445–1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII (Enquiry topic: Wars of the Roses 1445–1461)

25%

Unit 2: The USA in the 19th Century: Westward expansion and Civil War 1803–c1890

15%

Unit 3: Russia and its Rulers 1855–1964

40%

Unit 4: Coursework on the American Civil War 1861-5

20%

Entry requirements: The standard entry criteria to study in the sixth form are a 9-4 in at least seven different subjects, including English and mathematics, which would usually be at grade 4 or above.

To study other subjects already taken at GCSE you must achieve at least a grade 5 or above in that subject.



Assessment:

Unit groups 1–3 are assessed entirely through written examinations that are externally marked.

All examinations take place at the end of the course

Unit group 4 is assessed internally, then moderated externally and submitted before the examinations begin, in May.

Financial Information: Core text books will be given on loan for the duration of the course. However, further reading is expected and this may involve purchasing a range of books.

Future opportunities: History is referred by the Russell Group of Universities (Making Informed choices 2014) as a facilitating subject which will enable you to have a much wider range of options available to you when applying to universities.

All key skills are covered.

