

Course title: History A Level Edexcel

Academic year:	2026
Course Venue:	Sir Graham Balfour High School
Course Type:	A level
Duration:	2 years

Course Description:

At Sir Graham Balfour we deliver the Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History. This course is designed not only to develop your knowledge and understanding of new historical topics, but also foster a range of skills that are desirable for you when seeking to go on to further education or the world of work. You will explore a chronological period starting in c1580 and culminating in c1924. Two modules of the qualification focus on Revolutions in Early Modern and Modern Europe, a third focuses on a breadth study of the Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America and the final element of the qualification is a coursework module.

Course Content:

Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe:		Themes in breadth:	Coursework:
Unit 1: Britain 1625 – 1701: Conflict, Revolution and Settlement. (30%)	Unit 2: Russia in Revolution 1894 – 1924. (20%)	Unit 3: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1850 - 2009 (30%)	Unit 4: Historical Enquiry: Created by students or set by the centre. (20%)

Additional Information:

- It encourages the development of reason.
- It advocates research and in depth analysis.
- It seeks to promote a mastery of the specific, and develops an understanding of detail.
- It seeks to broaden individuals, by embracing a multi-disciplinary role, especially with its links with English.

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.

It is not necessary for you to have completed a GCSE course in History in order to start the A level course. As long as you satisfy the entry criteria for the Sixth Form, and you have a good command of English, you will be allowed on to the course.

Assessment:

The units are designed to assess a range of your skills, looking at your ability to analyse and evaluate source material, demonstrate your topical understanding and carry out independent research. Each unit is assessed in the following way:



Unit 1

Written examination (2 hour 15minutes). You will be required to answer three essay type questions, two of which assess your topic understanding and the third your ability to deal with historical interpretations. Each question is worth 20 marks.

Unit 2

Written examination (1 hour 30 minutes). You will be required to answer two questions , one question is source based and the other tests your historical knowledge. Each question is worth 20 marks.

Unit 3

Written examination (2 hours 15 minutes). You will be required to answer 3 essay questions, one of these will be sourced based with the remainder testing your knowledge and understanding of the topics covered.

Unit 4

The Historical Enquiry is an internally assessed coursework unit. This unit consists of one question that can further explore the topics already covered within the course or address a new topic area. The focus of this task is upon independent research and the identification and application of historical interpretations.

Financial Information: N/A

Future opportunities:

In recent years students who have followed the History course at the school have graduated to work in a broad range of occupations. These include:

Law
Archaeology
Health Service Management
Retail management

The police force
Social work
Teaching
Personal businesses

Doctoral Physics
The Diplomatic Service
Accountancy
Librarianship

Further information:

This is a course for anyone who wishes to stretch their own personal boundaries; it will open many new ideas to the student. The more that you immerse yourself in the course, the more you will get out of it. The ability to work hard and to develop a questioning approach is the most important route to success in the subject.

