

# A-LEVEL HISTORY

## Why Study A-Level History...

A-level History is far more than just learning about the past, it's about uncovering the ideas, events, and people that have shaped the world we live in today. Through the study of political power, economic change, social movements, and cultural shifts across different periods and societies, you'll develop the ability to think critically and question deeply. A-level History teaches you to analyse evidence, evaluate different interpretations, and build convincing arguments based on research and reflection. It's a highly respected qualification, valued by top universities and a strong foundation for a wide range of careers.

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

## Course Overview...

### Paper 1: In search of the American Dream: The USA 1917 – 96 (30%)

The dramatic political, economic and social transformation of the USA in the twentieth century, an era that saw the USA challenged by the consequences of political, economic and social inequalities at home and of its involvement in international conflict.

### Paper 2: South Africa, 1948 – 94: From apartheid state to 'rainbow nation' (20%)

A depth study on South Africa during its transition from white minority rule to the free elections of 1994 – a long, and at times, dramatic process in which South Africa changed from an apartheid state into a multi-racial democracy.

### Paper 3: Britain: Losing and gaining an empire 1763 – 1914 (30%)

Explore the development of the British Empire, examining the social, economic and political issues that started with an imperial catastrophe which threatened to reduce Britain once more to a European offshore island. This would then transform Britain's standing in the world so that by the end of the period, it had the largest empire the world has known. Case studies include the British Empire in America, Canada, India, Australia and the Nile Valley.

### Non-examined assessment (coursework) – The Holocaust (20%)

Requires students to produce an independently researched essay of 3,500–4,500 words, focusing on a historical controversy.

For those studying the Holocaust, this often involves engaging with the structuralist versus intentionalist debate, evaluating whether the genocide was the result of Hitler's long-term planning (intentionalism) or developed more chaotically through the workings and structures of the Nazi state (structuralism).

**Possible careers linked to this qualification...** Academic researcher, archaeologist, barrister, solicitor, broadcasting, consultancy, education officer, heritage work, journalism, film & television historical consultants, financial services, museum/gallery curator, politics and the civil service, secondary school teacher.