



Year 9 History

Aims:

- To develop a secure chronological understanding of the twentieth century, from the First World War to the modern world, helping students understand how conflict, ideology and political change shaped the world we live in today.
- To develop strong historical thinking skills, including understanding change and continuity, cause and consequence, similarity and difference, significance and interpretations, enabling students to analyse events such as dictatorship, war, genocide, civil rights and the Cold War.
- To foster curiosity, critical thinking and a love of History, encouraging students to question evidence, understand different perspectives and communicate informed judgements effectively in writing and discussion.

Content:

Students will study a fascinating and transformative period in British and international history, focusing on the challenges and changes of the twentieth century. The year begins with an in-depth study of the First World War. Students then explore the fragile nature of democracy in the interwar period, analysing how economic crisis, political instability and social tensions led to the rise of dictatorships in countries such as Germany and Russia. Building on this knowledge, students study the Second World War, investigating why it broke out, how it was fought, and its impact on civilians across Europe and beyond. This is followed by a focused study of the Holocaust, allowing students to understand the causes, events and consequences of genocide and the importance of remembering and learning from the past. In the final term, students examine the struggle for Civil Rights in the United States, exploring how individuals and movements challenged discrimination and fought for equality. The course concludes with a study of the Cold War and the modern world, analysing international tensions between the USA and the USSR and considering how these conflicts and developments continue to shape the world today.

Curriculum Map

Year	Term	Curriculum	Assessment
8	Term 1	World War One and Democracy to Dictatorship Students begin by studying the causes, key events and consequences of the First World War, including life in the trenches and the impact of the conflict on Britain and Europe. They then explore the aftermath of the war and the challenges faced by new and existing democracies. This includes an examination of political and economic instability in countries such as Germany and Russia, and how these conditions contributed to the rise of dictatorships.	Formal assessment Knowledge tests
	Term 2	World War Two and the Holocaust Students investigate the causes and course of the Second World War, focusing on key events, alliances and the experiences of civilians during wartime. This is followed by a focused study of the Holocaust, exploring the persecution of Jewish people and other groups, the role of Nazi ideology, and the consequences of genocide. Students	Formal assessment Knowledge tests

		will also consider issues of responsibility, memory and historical interpretation.	
	Term 3	The Modern World: Civil Rights and the Cold War In the final term, students study key developments in modern world history. This includes the African American Civil Rights Movement, examining the causes of segregation, the role of individuals and protest, and the impact of legislation. Students also explore the Cold War, analysing tensions between the USA and USSR, key crises and conflicts, and the lasting impact of superpower rivalry on the world today.	End of Y9 assessment Knowledge tests

Assessment:

Students will be assessed through essay-based questions and source evaluation. There will be regular knowledge tests to assess subject knowledge in each unit. There will also be a final assessment at the end of Year 9, which will test a range of historical skills and understanding of curriculum content.

Extended Learning:

Students will review learning from lessons at home through effective and regular revision as well as undertaking well personalised research projects that help to develop and satisfy an intellectual curiosity in the subject as well furthering their knowledge and understanding of the period.

Connection to the JTFS Approach

Whole School Theme	How does History support this?
STRIPE	Students will consistently reflect on prior learning, be effective participators in class debates on a range of historical issues, practice self-managing their own plans and hone their communication skills with their peers through lesson activities that challenge their thinking. Students are also encouraged to innovate and think creatively when faced with problematic historical sources and use their enquiry habits to ask questions and develop criticality with evidence in analysing information.
STEAM	Students learn about the technological and scientific advancements of the Industrial Revolution.
Literacy	Scan and skim reading are practiced along with exposure to challenging texts that enable students to widen their historical vocabulary. Historical fiction and nonfiction will also be formally shared with students through extended learning research projects.
Numeracy	Chronology and timelines are taught explicitly to improve students' understanding of time. Students will also be exposed to statistical evidence and how students can use data to support their arguments linking explicitly with work undertaken in Maths.
SMSC, British Values and Citizenship	There is focus on the human rights in the units on the Holocaust and Civil Rights as well the theme of nationhood and self-determination which is revisited frequently throughout the year. The concepts of democracy, freedom of speech, law and order as well as individual liberty are also covered.