

A-Level History

Component One: The breadth study

This component covers the Tudors from 1485 – 1603. The paper encourages the study of the Tudors over a 100 year period and the investigation of the historical interpretations of this period. The breadth study is introduced by six key questions which identify issues and perspectives which are central to the period of study. They emphasise that the study of breadth requires students to develop an understanding of:

- The nature of causes and consequences, of change and continuity and of similarity and differences over a long period of time
- The links between perspectives, such as political, economic, social or religious as well as appreciating developments relating to the perspectives separately over time
- The role played by individuals, groups, ideas or ideology

The content covered will include the consolidation of power by Henry VII, the role of Wolsey in government, the religious and state revolution started by Henry VIII, Edward VI's minority government, Mary I's changes to government and religion and the reign of Elizabeth I.



Component Two: The depth study

This component covers France in Revolution 1774 – 1815. The paper provides the opportunity to study a period of major change in depth, focusing on key ideas, events and developments.

The depth study is focused on a significant period of historical change or development. Students will gain deep understanding of change and continuity through the study of the interrelationships of a variety of perspectives as indicated in the content. They will develop detailed knowledge and understanding of developments and the roles of individuals, groups, ideas and ideology. Depth studies also promote an understanding of the complexity of the historical process through a detailed focus on a specific period of change.

The content covered will include the origins of the French Revolution, the storming of the Bastille, the meeting of the Estates General, the experiment in constitutional monarchy, the execution of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, the birth of the republic, the terror and its collapse, the rise of Napoleon, the changes made by Napoleon and the impact he had on Europe.



Component Three: The personal Study

Students will be required to identify an issue they wish to study and develop a question from this issue which will be the focus of the Historical Investigation. Students may study a specific issue in depth over a short period of time, or a broader theme and/or development over a longer period. Issues which relate to international, national or local developments are appropriate, as are investigations which adopt specific historical perspectives such as cultural, social or technological.

Once a suitable question has been decided upon students will be required to write an essay answering the question. This essay will be between 3000 and 3500 words in length.

