

IB History

HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history
- Explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in history
- Understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians
- Acquire, and effectively communicate, knowledge and understanding of selected material

What does it involve?

Standard Level involves the study of three topics:

- **The Move to Global War:** This is assessed in Paper 1 of the final examination, which is a source-based examination. Case studies on which the examination will focus are: Japanese expansionism in East Asia and Germany and Italian Expansion
- **Authoritarian States:** This is assessed in Paper Two and will be a comparison of various elements of 20th Century dictatorships including Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia, Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Maoist China and the rule of Nasser in Egypt
- **The Cold War:** This topic is also assessed in Paper Two and covers superpower relations between 1945 and 1991. Case studies will be made of various areas and 'flashpoints' including the Berlin Crises, Cuban Missile Crisis, Détente and the Arms Race

In addition Higher Level Students will study a History of Europe including Tsarist and Communist Russia, Unification of Italy and Germany and the Inter-War Years, 1919 – 1939.

How is it assessed?

There are two examination papers at Standard Level and three at Higher Level.

In addition, all students will be required to carry out an Internal Investigation on a topic of their choosing.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

A Level 5 or above in GCSE History is desirable, but not essential, though at least a Level 5 in English would be prudent.

Why is it a useful qualification?

History students will never experience the events that they study; instead they have to build up a picture from the evidence that has been left. Students have to become skilled at asking questions, sometimes awkward questions; and will learn not to take everything at face value. Students have to develop empathy and understanding of the actions and achievements of others; be prepared to put forward a case and argue it well; use evidence to draw conclusions and make judgements. These skills are highly desirable in many different careers and IB History is excellent training for any career where students have to use evidence or make decisions, especially where those decisions affect other people.

History students are not just limited to “becoming another history teacher” (unless they want to of course!) Nor are they destined to gather dust in a museum or library (again unless they want to!) There are so many careers out there that require the skills that a study of history can bring; Law, Medicine, Business, Finance, Accountancy, Tourism, Town Planning, Politics, Journalism, Research, to name but a few.

