

# A Level History Edexcel

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LINEAR

## Why study History

The study of History will encourage students to develop their independent research and thinking skills to consider the impact of democratic change over the past one hundred years and how medieval society shapes the foundations of Britain today. Students will be empowered to confidently reach their own conclusions of historical ideas based on their analysis of historical sources, consideration of knowledge and their own personal beliefs. Students will be encouraged to actively participate in all lessons to discuss and share ideas. The skills of discussion, decision making, and analyses are all highly valued in both the working world especially in fields such as law, journalism and management, as well as in further education.

## About the course

The History department at Newquay Tretherras is embracing the changes in the A Level to explore and investigate democracies in change: Britain and the USA in the 20th Century. Both Britain and America continue to dominate headlines in current affairs due to ideals, issues and policies that are rooted in the past, and for students to engage and consider these ideas will help them make more sense of our current world. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, Britain's welfare system provides health care and education for all its citizens and the USA has voted into power a mixed-race president. In 1918, both things would have been unimaginable to most of those living at the time. Route H studies how the two leading western democracies responded and adapted to the challenges brought about by the greater political, social, and economic expectations of ordinary people in the twentieth century. Students will also explore the medieval world through the Wars of the Roses 1399-1509, understanding the dramatic developments in late medieval England that centred around the personalities and political skills of a series of kings, queens and their powerful subjects, and the impact of these developments on the kingdom. Within the primarily political focus on the nature of kingship and authority in England, this option also explores the wider social and economic contexts of political struggle.

## Year 12

### Paper 1, Option 1H: Britain transformed, 1918–97

This option comprises a study of British history from the end of the First World War in 1918 to the election of Tony Blair as prime minister in 1997. During this time Britain was challenged by war, fluctuations in the economy, technological advancement and the desire for greater social equality. The response to these challenges has in many ways created the political, social, and economic climate of the twenty-first century today.

### Paper 2, Option 2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

This option comprises a study of the USA in the years 1955–92, from post-1945 affluence, through racial and political protests in the 1960s, to the rise of right-wing groups in the 1980s and the America of Ronald Reagan.

## Year 13

### Paper 3: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509

This is a study of a period that has inspired playwrights and popular novelists from Shakespeare to George Martin. Here is a real Game of Thrones with murders, plots, battles, and betrayals. The 110 years cover the reigns of seven kings, the last six Plantagenets and the first Tudor. It begins with a violent seizure of the throne by the Duke of Lancaster, cousin of the reigning monarch Richard II, who is then starved to death in Pontefract Castle. It is an appropriate beginning for this saga which ends with a new dynasty establishing a hold on the throne at the end of the century.

## Assessment

Students must complete a 4000-word individual study on an historical enquiry of their choice. Linear NOTE: At the end of Year 13, students will have to sit exams in ALL UNITS for the A Level grade. The exam on Unit 1 and 2 will be a different paper.

## Entry criteria

Students need to have a Level 6 grade as a minimum to study History A Level. If GCSE History was not taken, then a Level 6 in English might be considered.

## Outside the classroom

Students will get the opportunity to visit London and explore the Houses of Parliament, Tower of London and the War Rooms.

