



GCSE HISTORY

Mrs J Dixon

OCR Explaining the Modern World

General Introduction

The new History GCSE from September 2016 involves a study of broad themes alongside focus in depth. As well as encouraging an enthusiasm for the study of History, the course strengthens a range of skills and knowledge. Pupils will be able to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of the past
- develop a global awareness by studying societies different from their own
- investigate historical events, changes, issues, people and cultures
- interpret and evaluate a wide range of historical sources and their use as evidence
- recognise that conclusions and interpretations of historical events are constantly open to re-assessment through new evidence and on-going historical study
- develop Key Skills including the use of ICT

Course Specification

Paper 1 International Relations with a Non-British Depth Study 1 hour 45 mins 50% 60 hours

Key topics: Versailles, League of Nations, Origins WW2, Cold War, Background to 9/11 30% (36 hours)

Historical controversy: Changing interpretations of appeasement and causes of Cold War

Non British Depth Study: Germany 1925-1955 (24 hours)

Paper 2 British Thematic study 25% 1 hour 30 hours

Migration to Britain c.1000-2014

Themes: Reasons for immigration, Responses to immigration, Impact of immigration, Impact of immigration on Britain's relationship with the wider world

Paper 3 British Depth Study 25% 1 hour 15 mins 30 hours

The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 15% (18 hours)

Key topics: Break from Rome; Dissolution of the Monasteries; The impact of the Reformation in English parishes

Urban Environment: Patterns of Migration

Total exam time: 4 hours 30 mins

Summary of Course Content:

The 20th century: International Relations since 1919:

Were the peace treaties of 1919–23 fair?

To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

Who was to blame for the Cold War?

How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?

How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

Why did events in the Gulf matter, c.1970–2000?

In addition, all candidates also study Russia from 1905 to 1941 with a focus on the revolutions of 1917 and the nature of Stalin's rule.

How the course is assessed

There are two written examination papers which account for **73%** of the total mark. Students must also complete a coursework assignment on one of the following options

The First World War, 1914–18

Germany, 1918–45

The USA, 1919–41

China, c.1930–c.1990

South Africa, c.1940–c.1994

Israelis and Palestinians since 1945

The coursework will be done in Senior 5 and accounts for **27%** of the total mark