



History Curriculum Overview

Key Stage 3- Year 8

Basic Skills

Students learn to deepen their evaluation of sources skills by evaluating sources within their context in historical eras. They also learn how to write new types of essays which incorporate second-order concepts such as significance, and two-sided arguments.

Were the Chartists really failures?

Students start by studying the dramatic changes wrought by the Industrial Revolution, primarily the growing demand for political representation by the working classes of England in the 19th century. Students will explore why the political system was inherently unfair and undemocratic and how the Chartists tried to challenge this. Finally, pupils will assess the significance of this movement in both the short and long term to assess how successful the movement was overall.

Why did World War I break out in 1914?

Students investigate the short and long-term factors which plunged the European great powers into war in 1914. Students are encouraged to form linkages between diverse events and interests to come to their own judgement about the relative significance of the different factors involved and write an extended argument-based essay focused on this theme.

Does General Haig deserve to be called the “Butcher of the Somme”?

Students will investigate the conditions endured by soldiers in the trenches of the Great War. Central to this is an extended inquiry into the Battle of the Somme, by putting it into historical context. In addition, students will explore the role played by General Haig in this battle and will be asked to assess if it is fair that he received such blame for the casualties endured.

Project: Who is your 20th century history hero?

Students will look forward to Year 9 by selecting a history “hero” from the 20th century and create “cubes” arguing why this person was a significant influence on the century, deserving of recognition. Students will use their research skills to help build up a profile of their “hero” and create cubes displaying the achievements of their chosen person.