

National History

In National History, our young people develop their understanding of the world through learning about the other people, their values, reasons for events and the impact that these events have had on the world today. Throughout national History, young people develop their skills through the evaluation of a range of historical sources allowing them to develop critical thinking skills. The national History course focuses on the study of Scottish, British, European and World contexts from a variety of time periods.

The National Course Topics are;

Scottish; The Era of the Great War, 1900-1928

This topic examines the impact of the Great War on the Scottish people, society and culture. We explore the Western Front, examining what life was like for the Scottish soldier in the trenches and in battles such as Loos and the Somme. Our attention then turns to the impact of the Great War on life in Scotland. Among other areas, we investigate the changing role of women, how Scotland coped with the loss of thousands of its young men, the impact of rationing, and how the economy was changed by war.

British; The Atlantic Slave Trade, 1770-1807

In this topic we tell the story of the slave trade, and Britain's part within it. We look at the reasons for Britain's involvement in the slave trade, the process of capturing slaves and transporting them across the Atlantic Ocean to the colonies, and the experience of slaves once they arrived on the plantations. Our attention then turns to the impact of the slave trade on Africa and Britain, before we discover how the abolition of slavery came about.

European and World; Hitler and Nazi Germany, 1919-39

This unit focuses on the impact that defeat in the Great War had on Germany, and how this led to the rise of the Nazis. In this topic, we look at the humiliation of the Treaty of Versailles, the hyperinflation crisis and the Munich Putsch. We examine the reasons for the Nazi rise to power, and then will explore what life in Nazi Germany was like; this includes looking at the impact of the Nazis on the lives of the young, women, and the Jews.

Higher History

Higher History builds on the basic skills developed at National level, describing, and explaining key historical events. (Although, National History is not required to study at Higher in S6) At Higher we develop critical thinking; analysing and evaluating the factors which are responsible for these events.

Source Handling continues to develop problem solving skills by:

- Evaluating the usefulness of a source as historical evidence

- Using knowledge to identify how fully a source explains or describes an event
- Identifying and comparing the viewpoint of two historical sources

Three topics are studied:

British - Britain 1851-1951

This topic analyses and evaluates key social and political changes in Britain during this time, such as the growth of democracy for working class men as well as the women's suffrage movements. Development of social reforms introduced by the Liberal Government 1906-14 and the beginnings of the Welfare State we know today, as established by the Labour Government 1945-51.

European and the World - USA 1918-1968

This topic deals with changing attitudes to immigration to America following the First World War and charts the struggles and achievement of civil rights for Black Americans pre and post-World War Two. It includes the problems faced in the USA in the 1930s following the Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression.

Scottish - Migration and Empire: 1830 - 1939

This topic is the focus for Source Handling. It charts the patterns and impact of Migration within the British Empire from a purely Scottish perspective. It analyses the reasons for and impact of immigrants from areas such as Italy, Ireland, and Lithuania on Scotland, socially, politically, and economically. It also traces the Scots that immigrated to Canada, India, New Zealand and Australia drawing on their experiences, both positive and negative of establishing themselves abroad.

Advanced Higher History

The Advanced Higher History course aims to deepen a learner's understanding of the importance of the study of history, and develops and consolidates key historical skills further. Students will study the "Weimar and Nazi Germany" unit, which gives a chance to further their knowledge of this critical time in European history. As well as engaging with historical sources and completing essays, students will get the chance to research and write their own project dissertation on any aspect of Weimar or Nazi Germany. Within this course, learners will therefore not only develop their analytical, research and evaluation skills, but will also work on developing other useful skills such as time management and self-study.

The content in this course includes:

- The German Revolutions of 1918-19
- The political instability of 1919-23

- The rise of the Nazis
- The creation of Nazi society
- Resistance to the Nazis