

## **OCR A level History**

### **Introduction – an outline of the course**

There are 4 key elements to the OCR History course:

#### **Britain 1900-1950. (Y12 & 13)**

This study looks at the political, social and economic history of Britain in the first half of the 20th Century, investigating how modern British politics and society emerged from the impact of two world wars. You will look at political developments such as the growth of the modern welfare state and investigate how Britain changed from being the world's largest colonial power in 1900, to the end of the Labour Government in 1950. You will learn about the growth of modern mass politics and key figures in the politics of the 20<sup>th</sup> century such as Lloyd George and Churchill.

#### **The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774—1815 (Y12)**

This study looks at the growing problems in France before the Revolution of 1789, and asks the question 'why was there a revolution in France'. It then charts the story of the French Revolution, from idealistic uprising to the horror of the terror, before looking at the and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte.

#### **Popular culture and the witchcraze of the 16th and 17th centuries (Y13)**

An in depth study into the social impact of the changes taking place in Europe in the period 1500-1700, and the reasons for the 'Witchcrazes'. Includes an in depth study into the Witch trials in England, Germany and the American Colonies.

#### **Coursework- Topic based essay (Non-examined Assessment- NEA) (Y12- start of Y13)**

You will learn to develop your research skills, before setting you off on a study into a topic of your choice. You will research and produce a 3000-4000 word essay, using primary and secondary sources.

#### **What will we be studying in the first half term?**

##### **The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774—1815 (Y12)**

We will be looking at the problems in France at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and considering why this led to Revolution.

##### **Britain 1900-1950**

We will be looking at Britain before the First World War, looking at how economic and social change was putting pressure on governments to introduce wide ranging social reforms.

## What can I do that will help me prepare for A level History?

Read some history and engage with the subject content that we will be studying. Here are some recommendations:

### History Books:

- Andrew Marr: The Making of Modern Britain.
- Robert Wilde: The French Revolution: A complete history in an easy to read format
- Ian Davidson: The French Revolution: From Enlightenment to Tyranny

### Other books:

#### Contemporary works

- Suffragette: Emmeline Pankhurst
- Penguin Book of War Poetry (Particularly Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen.)
- The Testament of Youth: Vera Drake
- The Road to Wigan Pier: George Orwell
- Bright Young Things: Evelyn Waugh
- Reflections of the revolution in France- Edmund Burke

### Other Novels:

- Birdsong: Sebastian Faulkes
- Tale of two cities: Charles Dickens

### T.V. Documentaries:

- The Making of Modern Britain. Andrew Marr (BBC)
- The History of Modern Britain. Andrew Marr (BBC)
- Peoples Century (Up to 1950's) (BBC)
- The World at War
- The Great War
- Suffragettes Forever The Story of Women and Power

### Films/ TV drama series:

- **Versailles**
- **Marie Antoinette**
- The Wind That Shakes the Barley (Ireland)
- Michael Collins (Ireland)
- Suffragette
- The Gathering Storm (Outbreak of WW1)
- Churchill
- The Kings speech
- The Crown (first series)

## Websites

- Spartacus. [www.spartacus.co.uk](http://www.spartacus.co.uk)
- BBC history: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/>
- Mr Ford's Website; [www.andallthat.co.uk](http://www.andallthat.co.uk)

### **Summer Gap Task and where to find this**

The best way to prepare for your A level History is to complete the summer gap task that has been set.

On the [school website](#), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the History task.

This will ask you to research key terms so that you are able to start the course with an understanding of basic politics.