

Year 10 GCSE History

History is a highly controversial subject in schools with great debate over what content should be taught, whether the emphasis should be on 'facts' or 'skills' and what the nature of the relationship between history and national identity is or might be. Sadly, many newspapers and government ministers, past and present, treat these debates in a simplistic and superficial manner, and it is rarely possible to garner what happens in the classroom from a newspaper article or a political speech. History at Cottenham has several principles which we use to help us design our Key Stage 3 curriculum.

- **Enquiry based history** – all of our *students study a sequence of lessons addressing an overarching enquiry question. The knowledge we teach is used to answer these questions.*
- **Broad chronological range** – *students study a broad span of history from the middle ages to the present day.*
- **British, European and world history** – *learning our country's history is important. So too is an ability to situate this knowledge in a wider European and global context.*
- **History is for everyone** – *knowledge of the past is an entitlement for all students, regardless of academic ability.*

The Curriculum Overview for GCSE

At GCSE we are more limited in our range of periods by the demands of the GCSE specification. At Cottenham we follow the OCR Modern World Specification that explores the following periods:

- International Relations from 1919 to 1939
- Germany from 1918 to 1945
- British Society from 1939 to 1975
- The American Civil Rights Movement

History is examined by two exams at the end of Year 11 and one piece of controlled assessment completed in the first half of Year 11. There are mock exams in both Year 10 and Year 11.

Across the GCSE course, students will be expected to address the following enquiry questions:

- Were the peace treaties of 1919 to 1923 fair?

- To what extent was the League of Nations a success in the 1920s?
 - Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?
 - Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1933?
 - Why did the League of Nations fail in the 1930s?
 - Why had international peace collapse by 1939?
 - How effectively did the Nazis control Germany?
 - What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?
 - What was the role of Martin Luther King Junior in the Civil Rights Movement?
 - What was the impact of the Second World on Britain?
 - How did the lives of young people change between 1939 and 1975?
 - How far had women's lives changed by 1975?
 - What were the experiences of immigrants to Britain between 1939 and 1975?
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