



Newton Abbot College

Imagine what's possible ...

HISTORY and POLITICS DEPARTMENT

Approach

Our aim is to maximise student outcomes through teaching challenging and exciting lessons which will inspire and motivate our students. Through our teaching we intend to enthuse students and encourage them to be creative and imaginative on their journey to becoming confident, successful and enquiring learners.

We have established a 'Five Year GCSE' approach to the History GCSE (9-1). Schemes of learning in Year 7 and Year 8 use enquiry questions, to provide students with clear chronological and contextual understanding for the topics studied at GCSE as well as providing the skills needed to be successful at GCSE History and beyond. The positive impact of this approach has been proven with History now a very popular choice at GCSE and our 2019 results saw Newton Abbot College top the local league table.

In Year 7 students begin the year with an entertaining unit investigating the 'History of the Toilet', which provides students with a clear chronological overview of social history. This is followed by a sequence of units covering the years 1066 - 1750 through a mix of depth and period studies. As students make their GCSE option choices in Year 8, the topics studied have been redesigned to feel more like GCSE units and are a combination of depth and thematic studies. All schemes and lessons are designed to deliver content and skills in a creative manner with historical enquiry at its heart.

Students start Year 9 with a series of contextual knowledge units before beginning the GCSE content of the AQA History specification. Lessons are expected to be interactive and dynamic and designed to encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning, as well as building in revision and exam skills. To support the historic site element of the exam, we aim to provide students with a trip in Year 10 to an appropriate local site. We also utilise local 'living history' groups to help bring key content to life.

At A Level History we encourage a seminar style approach to lessons as students prepare for exam units on Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy 1603-1702 and The America Dream: reality and illusion 1945-80. History is a popular choice at A Level and the department has a tradition of good results. We aim to provide opportunities for students to experience University style History conferences and have established links with Exeter University Library for students to undertake research for their coursework.

The newly launched, and already popular, A Level Politics course also uses a seminar style approach to lessons with students studying UK Politics, the UK Government, political ideologies including feminism, and a Comparative Politics study of the Government and Politics of the USA. We have embraced the chance for students to engage in remote discussions and 'visits' to parliament and aim to facilitate wider engagement in local politics by organising mock elections in College.

The Team

There are three full time teachers in the department, all of whom teach across the ability and age range of the College, including Post-16. We pride ourselves on the consistency of our approach and team meetings are held regularly so that we continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning in History, as well as sharing good practice ideas and resources.

Resources and Teaching Rooms

The Department has three dedicated teaching rooms in an area shared with the other Humanities subjects. All rooms are fitted with digital projectors, whiteboards and visualisers, plus there is also further access to computer rooms. The department has a wide range of resources which are constantly being updated.

Timetable and Curriculum

The College operates a five period day alongside a two week timetable. Year 7 and 8 students have three hours of History every two weeks and Years 9 to 11 have five hours per fortnight. All of the History teaching groups at Newton Abbot College include the full ability range.

Key Stage 3 follows a broadly chronological approach in Year 7 with a range of depth and period studies covering the years 1066 - 1750. In Year 8, students study a range of units which explore the developments in rights, society and attitudes. These include Britain's involvement in the slave trade, changes in power and suffrage, the growth of extreme political ideologies and black British history.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9 - 11) follows the AQA History course and we study the following topics:

- America 1840 - 1895: Expansion and Consolidation
- Health and the People c1000 - present day
- Conflict and Tension 1918 - 1939
- Restoration England 1660 - 1685.

Post-16 (A Level) AQA History

- Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702
- The American Dream: reality and illusion 1945-1980
- Coursework: topic varies but in recent years students have focused their investigation on Russia 1853-1953, the struggle for women's suffrage 1832-1928 and Germany 1890 - 1990.

Post-16 (A Level) Edexcel Politics

- UK Politics
- UK Government with Feminism
- Comparative study: Government and Politics of the USA

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