

History

1) Unit 1-Russia, 1917-91 Lenin to Yeltsin

You will begin this module on the birth of political revolution in 1917 with Lenin. Lenin wanted to free the people of Russia to produce a paradise of equal opportunities free of exploitation, sexism and racism.

You will then look at Joseph Stalin who led the USSR 1924-53. He led the country under communism but by 1930 Stalin began ruling Russia using terror, torture and mass murder. Today the number of people he killed totals between 3-60 million.

You will also study the fall of the USSR from 1985-91 taking a closer look at the social, economic and political policies of Gorbachev, Brezhnev and Yeltsin.

2) Paper 2: The German Democratic Republic, 1949–90

This option comprises a study in depth of the creation, development, decline and collapse of the communist East German state, 1949–90. For the whole of its existence, East Germany was a key focus of world attention as it lay on the frontline of the Cold War, where contrasts between East and West could be seen at their starkest. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the political, economic and social policies of the East German government in this period, and their effects on the lives of its people

3) Paper 3: Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603

We are studying the 'Tudor Century' including 'Gunpowder, Treason and Plot'.

This unit focuses on the ways in which different factions and foreign powers tried to destroy the Tudor Dynasty from Henry VII through to Elizabeth I.

You will look at the causes, events and significance of the Rebellions under Henry VII, Henry VIII, Mary I and Elizabeth I, and the ways in which the Central Government tried to deal with law and order throughout the Kingdom.

The Growth of Central Government: how did the Tudors extend their influence throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and how did these reforms become the basis of English laws today?

4) Coursework- Any topic of your choosing

You can pick any topic you would like for your coursework.

You will be carrying out independent research, assessing the views of three different historians on the topic that you have chosen.

Topics to date have included the Vietnam War, World War One, Civil Rights Movement in USA, Nazi Party Popularity, the Suffragette movement and the use of the Atomic Bomb.

Trips and other costs:

Text books for each year are £25 from Edexcel directly although they can be bought second hand.

Trip to Reading University Library.

Trip to Berlin subject to uptake.

Career and further study:

Having a history A Level helps you to prepare for the research element of a university degree. Its high level academic status also is a subject that many universities recommend you to study. Careers that use history qualifications are accountancy, journalism, law, museum studies, teaching and librarianship but there are many more.