



History, Government and Politics Department

Departmental Overview

History is taught to all pupils in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9). At Key Stage 4 for GCSE, History is one of four Supplementary Core subjects. At Key Stage 5, our department teaches A Level History and A Level Government and Politics.

Studying History or Politics allows pupils and students to use the past to make sense of the present, enabling them to understand the circumstances that define modern life. At Saint Cecilia's, we explore a wide range of social, political, military and economic histories, both from the UK and abroad, and use enquiry questions to help focus our topics. We are keen to ensure that the diversity of our students is reflected in the histories we teach, and that their studies can enable them to enter adult life as well-rounded, literate, socially aware individuals.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, pupils engage with a range of enquiries of varying lengths, listed below.

Year 7:

- How enjoyable was life for ordinary people in medieval times?
- Was life elsewhere similar to life in England?
- Why do we remember the Tudors?
- Is 'Good Queen Bess' an overrated monarch?
- How swinging were the Sixties?

Year 8:

- Why were the 1600s an age of strife?
- How should we remember the British Empire?
- Did life improve during the Industrial Revolution?
- Why should we study slavery?
- Did the Civil Rights Movement make a difference?

Year 9:

- Why did WW1 start?
- What were the consequences of WW1?
- Why did people support the Nazis?
- Was WW2 really a People's War for Britain?
- Was the USA right to drop the atomic bomb?
- Why do we remember the Holocaust?
- How far have LGBTQ+ groups achieved equality?
- To what extent have race relations improved since 1981?

Setting arrangements and amount of curriculum time:

Pupils are not set in History but are taught in their house classes. Key Stage 3 pupils have three hours of lessons over the fortnight.

Assessment:

Pupils are assessed using a combination of knowledge quizzes and extended written pieces.

Feedback:

Students are given consistent verbal feedback by teachers in-class. This is supported by written feedback to accompany their extended pieces, and by providing opportunity for students to improve their work.

Homework:

Pupils are set homework regularly and when suitable at Key Stage 3. This may take the form of an extended assessed piece, a section of guided reading, assessment planning or retrieval quizzes, along with other research-informed homework styles.

Extra-curricular opportunities:

Pupils are given opportunities to attend trips in UK and abroad in connection with the curriculum

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, pupils study four units on the Pearson GCSE History syllabus:

- Migrants in Britain, 800-present
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-1088
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991
- Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1941

Setting arrangements and amount of curriculum time:

Pupils are not set in History but are taught in their option blocks. Key Stage 4 pupils have six hours over the fortnight.

Assessment:

Students are assessed using exam practice questions and formative assessment methods.

Feedback:

Students are given consistent verbal feedback by teachers in-class. This is supported by written feedback to accompany their extended pieces, and by providing opportunity for students to improve their work.

Homework:

Pupils are set homework regularly and when suitable at Key Stage 4. This may take the form of an extended assessed piece, a section of guided reading, assessment planning or retrieval quizzes, along with other research-informed homework styles.

Extra-curricular opportunities:

Pupils are given opportunities to attend trips in UK and abroad in connection with the curriculum

Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5, **A Level History** students study two taught topics, and one coursework-style topic, on the AQA board:

- The making of a superpower: USA, 1865-1975
- The making of modern Britain, 1951-2007
- Tsarist Russia 1801-1917 (Non-examined Assessment/NEA coursework)

In Key Stage 5, **A Level Government and Politics**, students study British Politics in Year 12, along with a smaller section on Political Ideologies. In Year 13, students study the political system of the USA. We use the Pearson board.

Setting arrangements and amount of curriculum time:

Pupils are not set in History or Government and Politics but are taught in their option blocks. Key Stage 5 pupils have 10 hours of lessons over the fortnight.

Assessment:

Students are assessed using essay questions, set regularly and in-keeping with content covered in class.

Feedback:

Students are given consistent verbal feedback by teachers in-class. This is supported by written feedback to accompany their extended pieces, and by providing opportunity for students to improve their work.

Homework:

Students are set homework regularly and when suitable at Key Stage 5. This may take the form of an extended assessed piece, a section of guided reading, assessment planning or retrieval quizzes, along with other research-informed homework styles.

Extra-curricular opportunities:

Students are given opportunities to attend trips in UK and abroad in connection with the curriculum.