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"Those Who Do Not Learn History Are Doomed To Repeat It." - George Santayana

### Topics on the course:

#### **Germany: The development of Germany 1919-1991.**

Students discover how the aftermath of the First World War affected Weimar Germany allowing them to consider the 'stab in the back theory' and how accurate this was. The course covers the turbulent years of the 1920s allowing pupils to understand how this may have led to Hitler becoming the chancellor of the most democratic country in the world! (At the time). After studying Hitler's rise to power students look in depth at what life was like in Nazi Germany from controlling opposition to Nazi policies persecuting the minorities living in Germany. The unit ends with the study of the Cold War focusing on the development, events and end of the war by 1990.

#### **Crime and Punishment through time.**

This unit covers British history from 1000 to the present day allowing students to understand how and why we have our criminal justice service today, including the formation of our modern police forces, prisons and the changing definitions of crimes. They journey through time to understand the brutality of punishments in the Middle Ages and the Early modern period alongside their ideas of what a crime was, which is very different to our ideas today! The course is taught thematically following crime, punishment and policing through time. The unit includes a historic environment which is changed every 2 years by the exam board.

#### **Elizabethan England: 1559-1603.**

We look at arguably the most successful female monarch that ever lived. We consider how she was able to rule in a 'man's world' and hold her own. We look at how she dealt with the problems of her reign from marriage and religion to Mary Queen of Scots, foreign threats, plots to take her life and the Spanish Armada! It wasn't all turbulent for Elizabeth though, so students will also study the interpretation of Elizabethan society being a 'Golden Age' and the development of the theatre and famous playwrights such as William Shakespeare.

#### **The USA: A Nation of contrasts: 1910-1929.**

Students study the 'roaring 1920s' looking at immigration to America, religion and race including the role of the KKK, the role of gangsters such as Al Capone, the changing status of women, the causes of the economic boom and the eventual economic collapse. This allows students to confidently debate whether the 1920s lives up to the stereotype of the 'roaring 1920s'.



**The course is broken down into two exams; there is no controlled assessment/coursework:**

Paper 1: America and Elizabeth. This paper is 2 hours long.

Paper 2: Germany and Crime and Punishment. This paper is 2 hours long.

In total there are 4 hours of examinations at the end of the course.

**Examples of learning activities**

In history, we learn in a number of different ways from: reading, analysing sources, extended writing, analysing different interpretations of history, plotting graphs, arguing for/against statements and of course answering exam questions.

**Possible future careers that this course supports:**

History is a well-respected course which opens many doors. It is well thought of by colleges, universities and employers alike. It is extremely suited to those who intend to follow academic careers but will look good on any CV. Most employers look for lively-minded young men and women with wide interests and an awareness of the world around them. Our History course will give you a sound understanding of the world in which we live. History also develops your ability to articulate your thoughts and logically share your ideas.

**Skills, personal qualities or commitments required to take this course:**

You need to have good written and organisational skills. These will help you to structure your work appropriately and to manage the tasks you have to complete. You need to be a committed student who enjoys reading and writing. An understanding and interest in politics would be an advantage as some of the units cover politics. You will need to be reflective and be prepared to develop your study skills and exam skills to be able to tackle three examination papers successfully at the end of the course. There will be a lot of hard work but the outcomes will be worth it.

**Homework:**

There is regular homework set which focuses on the recall of knowledge throughout the course, which means while you are learning about one unit in school your homework may be on another topic.

**Other information:**

We run a trip to Berlin in Germany which 'brings to life' events studied in the Germany unit with visits to the Berlin Wall, German concentration camps, Hitler's bunker, a Holocaust museum, a museum on the secret police in East Germany and the famous Brandenburg Gate.

