

Medieval and Early Modern History 1035-1603 AS/A level

Introduction

Medieval History is an increasingly popular subject at both AS and A level. Its obvious attraction is that it tackles a period of History very different from Modern History. Yet it requires the same skills. If you have a genuine interest in the past, are prepared to handle information, learn detail and develop an argument AS or A level History will appeal to you. History combines well with other subjects and success indicates a good academic ability.

You may well have looked at the Norman Conquest of England or even the Crusades at High School but you will find that there is much more depth and expanse to the course. There is also the added attraction of being able to include a coursework component. From 2008 we are also introducing an early modern unit into the second year looking at the Tudor period in response to requests from students.

Year 1

This is composed of two modules, one British and one European.

In the first module (Unit 1) students study the transitional period from **Anglo-Saxon to Norman England 1035-1087**. It begins with the reign of Edward the Confessor and the subsequent succession crisis which enabled William of Normandy to claim the throne. Duke William's invasion, victory and the effects on England will be key questions to be considered together with the degree of change and continuity.

Unit 2 is document based and explores in depth the origins of the **First Crusade**, its main events and the establishment of the Crusader states. This includes many intriguing characters and interesting episodes such as the battle of Dorylaeum and siege of Antioch.

Year 2

Unit 3 is the synoptic paper which is required to cover at least 100 years of History. The theme we have selected is **Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors 1485 – 1603**. We will look at how the Tudor monarchs attempted to change the political and religious nature of England and how their subjects responded.

Unit 4 is the coursework component with two 2000 word pieces, one focusing on interpretations and we intend to make this a study of the **Reign of King John 1099-1216** about whom there is considerable dispute amongst historians. The other piece is a **comparative investigation** on the reputation of another historical figure. There may be scope for you to have some choice regarding the topic. Advice is to be given and individual research will be essential to make this a successful component.

Assessment

Units 1 and 2 will be assessed in June at the end of the year. Unit 3 at the end of the A level year whilst the coursework will be marked internally and assessed externally.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in English Language.