

# What will I study in A-Level History at WQE?

Students study AQA A-level History; either Route CN or Route CQ.

## Route CN

### 40% Breadth Study 1C: The Tudors: England, 1485– 1603

Year 1: Consolidation of the  
Tudor Dynasty: England,  
1485–1547

- Henry VII, 1485–1509
- Henry VIII, 1509–1547



Year 2: England: Turmoil and  
Triumph, 1547–1603

- Instability & consolidation:  
'Mid-Tudor Crisis', 1547–1563
- The triumph of Elizabeth,  
1563–1603

### 40% Depth Study 2N: Revolution & Dictatorship: Russia 1917-1953

Year 1: The Russian  
Revolution and Rise of Stalin,  
1917–1929

- Dissent and Revolution
- Bolshevik consolidation
- Stalin's rise to power



Year 2: Stalin's Rule, 1929–  
1953

- Economy and society
- Stalinism, politics and control
- The Great Patriotic War and  
Stalin's Dictatorship

or

## Route CQ

### 40% Breadth Study 1C: The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

Year 1: Consolidation of the  
Tudor Dynasty: England,  
1485–1547

- Henry VII, 1485–1509
- Henry VIII, 1509–1547



Year 2: England: Turmoil and  
Triumph, 1547–1603

- Instability & consolidation:  
'Mid-Tudor Crisis', 1547–1563
- The triumph of Elizabeth,  
1563–1603

### 40% Depth Study 2Q: The American Dream, 1945-1980

Year 1: Prosperity,  
inequality and Superpower  
status 1945-1963

- Truman and Post-war  
America 1945-1952
- Eisenhower:  
tranquillity and crisis  
1952-1960
- John F Kennedy and the  
'New Frontier' 1960-  
1963



Year 2: Challenges to the  
American Dream 1963-1980

- The Johnson Presidency  
1963-1968
- Republican reaction:  
the Nixon Presidency
- The USA after Nixon,  
1974-1980

## 20% - Coursework Assignment

In addition to the breadth and depth examined units students will produce a coursework assignment. This takes the form of a 3000-3500 word essay responding to a question in the context of approximately 100 years. We currently offer:



**The Crusading Movement**  
c.1095-1204



**Germany 1871-1990**  
**Authoritarian Leadership, the Sonderweg, Bismarck, Foreign Policy, & Anti-**



**Witchcraft**  
**C1480-1600**



**The struggle for African-American Civil Rights**  
**1865-1980**

*NB: Students studying Route KE are unable to choose coursework on the struggle for African American Civil Rights as they study this as part of Unit 1K*

### How can I prepare for studying A-Level History?

- We recommend John Arnold's *History: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2000) which is a lively and thought provoking introduction to the philosophy of history. He investigates important questions on the nature of the past, use of primary sources and how historians form interpretations.
- Reading a good overview history of the relevant periods would help to provide strong understanding of context and chronology; John Guy, *Tudor England* (OUP, New Ed 2000); Orlando Figes, *Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991* (Pelican, 2014); David Reynolds, *America; Empire of Liberty* (Penguin 2010); Peter Ackroyd, *Civil War* (Pan, 2014).
- Keep an eye out for relevant documentaries; particularly those produced by BBC, Channel 4 or PBS (for American History). Many are also available to view on Iplayer, 4od or on YouTube. Simon Sharma's *History of Britain* and David Starkey's *Monarchy* both have episodes on the Tudors and the English Civil War.
- There are many excellent history podcasts available online. We particularly recommend BBC's *In Our Time*; there are many relevant episodes including: The Tudor State; Lenin; The Trial of Charles I; and American Populists.
- Immerse yourself in the culture of the topics with art, music, novels and films. The following historical novels would give you a valuable sense of period. For the Tudors: *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, *Dissolution* by CJ Samson, *White Queen & Red Queen* by Philippa Gregory. For the USA: *The Jungle* or *Oil*, by Upton Sinclair, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald.
- Visit local historical museums and sites: Richard III Visitor Centre; New Walk Museum; Bosworth Battlefield; Newarke Houses Museum. If you are travelling in the UK look out for links to the Tudors or the English Civil War.
- Read a quality newspaper at least three times a week; *Guardian*, *Times*, *Independent*, *Telegraph*. Try to vary your choice to help you understand their differences.

Useful Websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/22318048>

<http://orlandofiges.info>

<http://thecrashcourse.com/courses/ushistory>

<http://bcw-project.org/>

For more information contact:

Duncan Omand

Assistant Curriculum Leader Humanities

[duncan.omand@wqe.ac.uk](mailto:duncan.omand@wqe.ac.uk)

@WQEHISTORY