



HISTORY & POLITICS AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Curriculum

All students study History at Key Stage 3, being taught in their tutor group. The approach taken at Key Stage 3 is thematic, with the curriculum broadening out from a study of Britain since 1066 in Year 7 to the wider world in Years 8 and 9. Students who opt for GCSE follow the AQA syllabus examining German History 1890-1945, International Relations 1919-1939, Edward I and Empires and Migration breadth study. At A Level, History students follow the AQA syllabus and study Nineteenth and Twentieth Century British political and social History and the Cold War 1945-1991. The current coursework topic (NEA) is the Abolition of Slavery in the USA 1775-1877. In Politics, students follow the AQA syllabus here too, with units on British Politics, American and comparative Politics, and Ideologies (Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Feminism).

Assessment

At Key Stage 3 pupils are assessed regularly throughout the year. There are also formal school examinations in the Summer Term. At GCSE level there are twice yearly school examinations as well as regular tests. In the Sixth Form, progress is monitored on a regular basis including formal mock examinations.

Staffing

The department is currently staffed by two full-time teachers, including the Head of department, one part time member of staff and two other teachers who deliver KS3/KS4 lessons. History is a popular choice at GCSE (2 groups) and A Level (2 groups and 1 of Politics).

Facilities

The department is located in two classrooms, each equipped with interactive touch screens and visualisers. ICT facilities are also available in the school's ICT suite and in the library for whole class use.

Resources

The department is well-provided with books and there are additional resources in both the department and the school library. At GCSE pupils have access to a range of textbooks and other resources. At A Level the department has built up a range of resources for active learning which has afforded students the opportunity to investigate topics in greater detail. The department has a wide range of educational DVDs and electronic resources.

Methodology

The department places great emphasis on communication skills and pupils are encouraged to work cooperatively and embrace independent learning. The schemes of work at key Stage 3 are designed to encourage pupils to develop their understanding of historical skills and concepts. We also emphasise societies (Sons and Daughters of Liberty – Junior History Society and The Cincinnati – Senior History Society). The department is also active in extra-curricular trips; traditionally, first year have visited Richmond Castle, second year visit Beamish, GCSE Historians visit Germany / Austria, and at A-Level joint trips have run to London in the Lower Sixth and to the USA in Lower/Upper Sixth.

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