



Ripon Grammar School

Dear Student,

We look forward to welcoming you to our A Level classes in September. To help with the transition from Y11 into sixth form and ensure that you are well prepared for the A level History course we have set all students some preparation tasks.

Please email Mrs. Fell (Head of History and Politics) fellj@ripongrammar.com to introduce yourself, tell me which school you have studied at, what units you studied at GCSE, and what part of the A level course are you looking forward to.

Online wider reading resources

As a school we subscribe to both Modern History Review and Politics Review. These are magazines aimed at A level students, and they cover many relevant topics and debates found in the A level course, as well as lots of general interest articles. You can access the magazines using the library SharePoint (login details on the page). We also subscribe to the Economist magazine (login: fellj@ripongrammar.com, password: **JMKeynes**).

Textbooks, reading materials and relevant podcasts/documentaries

We will provide you with a textbook for the Cold War Unit in September, and although we occasionally use textbooks in class for the British History unit, we do not issue you with one. If you wish to purchase one, there are three publications available that cover our unit (details in linked document).

We will also use a variety of historical interpretations, documentaries and podcasts over the course of study, and there is a wealth of relevant wider reading/listening/watching available, both academic and fiction. Some suggestions and further details can be found here for the British unit: Suggested prep [reading for incoming lower 6th](#) and the Cold War unit:

A Level trip to the USA

We run a joint History and Politics trip to the USA every other year. The next trip will take place in 2027, and will be open to both Year 12s and 13s. The cost of the trip is generally around £2000, and over the course of a week we visit sites and museums around Washington DC, Gettysburg battlefield, either Monticello (Jefferson's home) or Mount Vernon (Washington's home), Arlington Cemetery and various other sites. Further details will be published in the Spring Term 2026.

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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Transition work

Below are the resources needed to assist you with the set transition work to be ready to start with the A Level course at the start of the first week.

Unit 1G: Britain – Challenge and Transformation c.1851 – 1964

This pack contains details of the specification and some reading to complete: [GB History Transition to Sixth Form Pack](#).

As you read, or as a consolidation exercise after reading, answer the following questions in note form: [History Transition notes questions](#)

Unit 2R: Cold War 1945 – 1991

To introduce the Cold War and some of the themes you will be studying, first read [Mitchell 'The Cold War' Introductory Reading History CW](#), from Modern History Review. Then read [1.1a Westad 2017 CH 1](#). and use the information to construct a timeline of key events up to 1945.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Fell.

Kind regards,

Mrs. J Fell
Head of History and Politics

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