



History: Curriculum Overview

Year 8

Over the course of the year, students will examine two overarching questions:

1. How did revolutions transform Britain and the wider world? (c. 1600 – c. 1900)
2. What impacted people’s lives in the 20th century: government, conflict or political ideologies?

Half Term	Topics studied	What will I learn?	How will I be assessed?
Year 8 Autumn 1	<i>Civil War, British Empire and the Haitian Revolution.</i>	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What happened in the English Civil War and the rise of radicalism.</i> • <i>What the British Empire was.</i> • <i>Why the Haitian Revolution was so important.</i> 	<i>Three knowledge tests and three small pieces of extended writing.</i>
Year 8 Autumn 2	<i>American and French Revolutions and the Industrial Revolution.</i>	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The impact of the American and French Revolutions on Anglo-Irish relations and the formation of the United Kingdom.</i> • <i>Whether the Industrial Revolution really was ‘Liberty’s Dawn’ and the emergence of the working class.</i> 	<i>Two knowledge tests and two small pieces of extended writing.</i>
Year 8 Spring 1	<i>Peterloo and British-Jamaican Relations.</i>	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why there are different interpretations of Peterloo and what this tells us about the working class.</i> • <i>Whether there was more continuity than change in British-Jamaican relations between 1760 and 1870.</i> 	<p><i>Two knowledge tests and two small pieces of extended writing.</i></p> <p><i>Free-form piece of extended writing relating to our <u>third overarching question</u>, ‘How did revolutions transform Britain and the wider world?’</i></p>
Year 8 Spring 2	<i>Suffragettes and the First World War.</i>	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Who the suffragettes were and their impact.</i> • <i>How Europe went to war in 1914.</i> • <i>Who fought in the Great War, including a study of colonial armies e.g. Algerian, Chinese and Indian.</i> 	<i>Three knowledge tests and three small pieces of extended writing.</i>
Year 8 Summer 1	<i>Second World War and the Holocaust</i>	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The role of Britain, America and the USSR in the victory of the Second World War.</i> • <i>How historians have written the history of the Holocaust.</i> 	<i>Two knowledge tests and two small pieces of extended writing.</i>
Year 8 Summer 2	<i>Civil Rights and Windrush</i>	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Civil Rights movement in America and Britain.</i> • <i>Who the Windrush Generation were and why they have become such an integral part of British history.</i> 	<p><i>Two knowledge tests and two small pieces of extended writing.</i></p> <p><i>Free-form piece of extended writing relating to our <u>fourth overarching question</u>, ‘What impacted people’s lives in the 20th century: government, conflict or political ideologies?’</i></p>