

Curriculum Summary Document

Year 9 – History

From World Wars to Cold War

Module/Unit of Learning	Taught During	What will students learn?	How does this prepare students for transition into Key Stage 4?	Links to other Subjects
World War One	September – October	Students explore the causes of the First World War, including nationalism, imperialism, and alliances. They study trench warfare, key battles, and the human experience of war, before assessing the Treaty of Versailles and its global consequences.	Students practise using GCSE command words such as ‘explain’, ‘analyse’, and ‘evaluate’. They develop skills in extended writing, sequencing events, and weighing causes and consequences — essential for GCSE source and essay questions.	Oracy: articulating complex historical causation English: developing empathy through war poetry and narrative accounts Geography: understanding how physical geography shaped warfare
Hitler and Nazi Germany	October – December	Students study the impact of the First World War on Germany, the rise of Adolf Hitler, and the establishment of Nazi rule. They examine propaganda, dictatorship, persecution, and the steps leading to the outbreak of the Second World War.	Students strengthen evidence-based reasoning through source analysis and interpretation. They learn to construct balanced arguments and understand continuity and change — core disciplinary skills for GCSE History.	Oracy: discussing sensitive and controversial topics respectfully Religious Education: exploring moral questions and the role of belief systems Citizenship: understanding democracy, extremism, and human rights
The Holocaust	January	Students investigate the Holocaust as a turning point in human history, exploring the roots of antisemitism, Nazi ideology, and the implementation of the Final Solution. They reflect on individual stories of persecution, survival, and resistance.	Students practise analytical and empathetic responses to evidence, developing moral understanding alongside critical thinking. They learn to interpret historical sources and evaluate differing perspectives — key GCSE interpretive skills.	Oracy: reflecting through structured discussion and presentation Religious Education: exploring prejudice, morality, and tolerance English: analysing survivor testimony and narrative writing
World War Two	February – March	Students examine the causes, key events, and global consequences of the Second World War. They study leadership, technological	Students consolidate their ability to evaluate cause and consequence and develop structured	Oracy: constructing clear historical explanations

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		change, and the experiences of civilians and soldiers across different nations.	written responses. They use precise historical terminology and evidence selection — essential for GCSE-style essays and case studies.	Geography: analysing global conflict and territorial change Science: exploring wartime innovation and technology
The Russian Revolution	April – May	Students study Russia from 1900 to 1930, including the fall of the Tsar, the 1917 revolutions, Lenin's rise to power, the Civil War, and the early years of communist rule. They analyse how ideology and leadership transformed society.	Students develop comparative reasoning and use of political terminology, applying evidence to explain continuity and change. They practise structured arguments and balanced conclusions, strengthening skills required for GCSE essays and interpretations.	Oracy: debating political change and revolution Geography: understanding Russia's size, climate, and regional diversity English: analysing persuasive speeches and propaganda
The Cold War	June – July	Students explore the origins and key events of the Cold War between 1945 and 1991. They examine ideological conflict, nuclear tension, and global crises such as the Berlin Wall and Cuban Missile Crisis, considering how these shaped modern geopolitics.	Students refine their ability to evaluate multiple perspectives and assess significance — key to GCSE interpretations work. They apply skills in evidence analysis, chronology, and synthesis across complex global themes.	Oracy: explaining and defending arguments on global issues Geography: analysing world regions, superpowers, and alliances Religious Education: exploring moral issues around conflict and peace