

Year 11-12 Transition Pack:

A Level

History



**Introduction**

History is an exciting course that allows you to study the past in depth, answer enquiries and set your own. In this course you understand how the world has been shaped and who is still shaping it. This course is suitable for hard-working pupils who have a thirst for knowledge and understanding and want to engage in the debate that creates History.

History leaves many career options open as it is a highly sought after A-level for University applications. It could lead to a career in law, the civil service or any other graduate scheme such as accounting. History does not limit you to teaching, librarianship or working in a museum!

If you wish to know more, please contact Mrs Fasham at v.fasham@georgesalter.com or Ms Digpal at p.digpal@georgesalter.com

**Course Overview**

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| Component | Content | Assessment |
| Component 1 – The Tudors 1485-1603 | Their consolidation of power, foreign relations, how effectively England was governed, changes in society, economy and religion, the key figures and groups within Tudor England and their impact. This is done covering Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. | One paper of 2 hours 30 minutes. |
| Component 2 – The Cold War 1945-1991 | Explores concepts such as capitalism and communism, aggression and détente, the power of modern military technology and what hastens confrontation and what forces promote peace in the world. | One paper of 2 hours 30 minutes. |
| Component 3 - Coursework | Choice of topics over an 100 year period including:* Development of the status of African Americans 1860-1968.
* Witch trials 1603-1714
* The Bloody Code – law and order in England 1720-1820
* The Raj in India 1857-1947
* German foreign policy 1815-1945
* The status of women in England 1850 -1928
 | One piece of coursework - 4500 words. |

**Articles to Read**

**Textbooks**

**(Please do not buy any of these. Many pages of these can be read on Google Books for free or within your library).**

David Ferriby, Angela Anderson, Tony Imperato, *The Tudors: England 1485-1603* (Hodder)

Michael Tilbrook, *The Tudors: England 1485-1603* (Oxford)

**Websites**

[www.Historyextra.com](http://www.Historyextra.com)

**Podcasts**

* The Rest is History
* Not just the Tudors
* History Extra
* In Our Time

**Summer Activity- Tudors**

This should be an extended project which should take students a few hours to complete and should prepare them for the start of the course. It could be the equivalent of 1000 words in length

**Task:** Using the information from the textbook, you need to create a **‘Traveller’s Guide to Tudor England.**’ This needs to be informative, outlining what the key features are and what people should and shouldn’t expect or do.

Prompts

* What is the landscape like?
* What do most people do?
* How do areas differ?
* How is society structured and ordered?
* How big is the Catholic Church?
* What is the Church’s role in the community?
* How has the Church been involved in politics?
* Which news ideas are there?
* What new inventions are their?
* Why else is this period a period of change?

**Extra**

Watch a minimum of one episode of one of the documentaries listed below.

Documentaries (all available on youtube!):

* Henry VII the Winter King
* David Starkey: Henry VIII: Mind of a Tyrant
* David Starkey: Edward and Mary
* David Starkey: Elizabeth I

Books (fiction listed below, but see what you can find in a library/charity shop)

* Phillipa Gregory books are ‘trashier’ but an easier read *The Other Boleyn Girl; The Boleyn Inheritance; Three sisters, three queens; The Taming of the Queen; The King’s Curse*
* Hilary Mantel – her Man Booker Prize winning books *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies* are good accounts of Thomas Cromwell and the rise and fall on Anne Boleyn
* CJ Sansom’s Matthew Shardlake series are a good detective story!

For a really good narrative is **Peter Ackroyd, *A History of England, Volume II: The Tudors* (2013**). This does not always have a clearly analytical approach and some of it is traditional rather than following the most recent research, but it is easy to read, a great bedtime read!

**Summer Activity- Cold War**

**Task 1:** Read the information provided. It would be good to jot a short title on the left of each paragraph to keep track of what the historian is arguing.

Then summarise – ‘Where have Russia and the USA cooperated and where did they fall into conflict?’

**Task 2:** There are a number of key events that occurred during the Cold War that may have been classed as ‘turning points’ in Cold War politics and relations. Pick one of the events listed below, research the event and create a powerpoint explaining the causes, what happened and the consequences. Consider why the event was significant in the Cold War.

* The Berlin Airlift
* The Korean War
* The Cuban Missile Crisis
* The Vietnam War
* The Fall of the Berlin Wall

**Extra**

Look up on youtube documentaries on either the Cold War or more specific events like the Berlin Airlift or the Vietnam War.