

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

History

Q 1. What do you study in History at Loreto?

We follow the AQA A level syllabus:

- ◆ *AQA Unit 1G Challenge and Transformation: Britain c1851-1964 (Exam Module 40%)*
- ◆ *AQA Unit 2R The Cold War c1945-1991 (Exam Module 40%)*
- ◆ *AQA Unit 3 Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework Module 20%)*

Further information can be found on the [History course page](#) on the college website.

Q 2. How will I be assessed?

You will sit one exam for the Britain module and one exam for the Cold War module. These take place at the end of your second year, so for students beginning their courses in 2021, the exams will take place in the summer of 2023. Each exam is a similar format, a compulsory source-based task and then 2 essays from a choice of 3. Each exam is 2 hours 30 minutes long and is worth 40%.

The other 20% is through a piece of coursework that you complete in the first half of upper 6th – this is an independently researched extended essay of up to 4500 words. This will bring together the different skills you need in the exam modules such as source analysis, evaluation of historical interpretations and writing balanced essays with judgements formed from your research and supported by evidence. The coursework is assessed internally.

Q 3. Do you need to have studied History at GCSE?

No, it is not essential as we will teach you the skills you need as we progress through the course. What is most important is that you have a genuine interest in History and the topics we will be studying. Other than that, you will need to meet the college's general requirements of 6 GCSE's at grades 9 - 4 including two of English, Maths and Science. Two grades should be at least grade 6.



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We must stress the course is literacy-based – there is a lot of reading and the assessment is done through essays so you need to enjoy and be good at English.

Q 4. What can I do with a History qualification?

In short – anything! History graduates have gone into a huge range of occupations- - journalism, politics, teaching, writing, publishing, culture and the arts, museum curation, archaeology, anthropology, psychology, law, business, accountancy...even sport and the music industry!

The skills you develop on a History course are highly respected by employers – self-discipline, analysis, debate, communication, critical thinking, research...to name just a few.

Employers and university admissions departments know what they are getting with a student who has succeeded at A Level History, you will have the skills they look for when appointing a candidate or offering a place at university.

Q 5. What are lessons like?

There is a range of activities happening in a Loreto History classroom. We like students to come with their ideas and questions from their own reading and use these to prompt a lot of discussion and debate, alongside using your growing knowledge and confidence to apply this knowledge to developing the skills required for the exam.

Q 6. Are there any trips?

In recent years we have visited local historical sites, and have also traveled abroad. In February 2020, we visited Berlin to support the Cold War module and previous years have visited the USA alongside the Politics department. Obviously, with COVID such plans are on hold at the moment, but we will look to take the experience back outside of the classroom once restrictions are lifted and it is safe again to do so.

Q 7. Can I get involved in other historical activities outside of lessons?



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Yes, we have a growing history society, which meets fortnightly to present and discuss historical topics that are of particular interest to its members. This is organised by and for the students. This will be supported by talks from visiting lecturers and visits when circumstances allow. In addition, you can support the college and the Department as a History Subject Ambassador where your roles will include supporting and advising new history students and expressing the views of students through Student Voice.

Q 8. Q: How do you support students outside of lessons?

All staff in the History Department are friendly and knowledgeable, about both the subject and the examination requirements and we will always welcome students to come to see us to seek extra support. We operate a 'drop in' system where students are able to come and seek advice on particular issues or to clarify any content. This is in addition to revision resources that are on the college intranet and are constantly being updated and, when social distancing restrictions allow, face-to-face revision lessons.

Q 9. Q: How do you provide support for students who are absent?

Lesson resources are available on the college intranet for all students to use and revisit as many times as they wish. In addition, we have a range of excellent revision resources including podcasts and recorded lessons for students to access time and again. The Department also has all past papers and a range of model answers for students to access from home, in addition to subscriptions to magazine archives and a range of online resources through the college library system.

