 **A-Level History Guide**

**How History will be taught:**

* Whole class discussions and debate
* Note taking from academic articles, textbooks and short video clips
* Reading articles or textbook extracts, essay planning and essay writing at home
* Exam skill practice
* In depth source analysis and evaluation

**Working expectations:**

* Attend all lessons
* Complete organised and neat notes
* Complete all tasks to the best of your ability
* Ask for help if required
* Work well independently and with others
* Be willing to share ideas

**What 100% effort in this subject looks like:**

* Completing all essays set to a high standard and meeting deadlines
* Actively contributing to class discussion and debate
* Research of the historical context of a topic – e.g. researching important events in Europe during the time of the Tudors
* Watching historical films and documentaries, not only for the two main units but also to show a wider enthusiasm for and understanding of History
* Reading online articles using our *History Today* subscription

**Folder Policy:**

Your folders should have:

* An A4 Exercise book for note-taking (both in class and homework)
* Separate sections for each unit
* A clear division between the Tudor side and America side of the course (ideally, two separate folders)

**What marking looks like:**

* Class notes are checked for presentation and detail
* All essays and timed exam questions will be marked with comments
* At least two essays per term per unit will be marked against the AQA mark scheme.

**What homework looks like:**

* Reading from articles and textbooks
* Source annotation
* Essay planning
* Exam questions
* Presentation planning

**Specification at a glance:**

* **Paper 1:** Tudor England 1485 - 1603 (40% of grade. 100% examined)  
  - This looks at the political, religious, social and economic developments of the Tudor Age  
  - You will be asked to evaluate three extracts by Tudor historians on a particular topic. You will then decide which historian has the most convincing interpretation of the topic.  
  - You will be asked to write an extended evaluative essay on a topic that spans approximately 50 years, as part of this breadth study.
* **Paper 2:** The American Dream 1945 - 1980 (40% of grade. 100% examined)  
  - This looks at the political, social and economic development of America after WW2, including the Civil Rights campaign, in order to understand why America has become the leading superpower of the world in modern day.   
  - You will be asked to evaluate three sources from the time on a particular topic. You will then decide which source has the greatest validity, based upon its provenance, purpose and content.  
  - You will be asked to write an extended evaluative essay on a depth topic from this period
* **Non-Examined Assessment:** (20% coursework)You must research a topic of your choosing that covers 100 years and evaluate two primary and two secondary sources in relation to this topic.

**Summer preparation tasks**

These tasks have been designed to help you get a ‘feel’ for the course, but also to build up your contextual understanding so that you can hit the ground running in September. Choose from this list of suggested activities. Do the baseline assessment for each topic and at least two questions from each topic too:

**1C: The Tudors, 1485-1603**

1. Create a family tree of the ‘House of York’, the ‘House of Lancaster’ and/or ‘The House of Tudor’. This will really help you understand the course and who is related to who, especially at the start where it seems everyone is related to everyone in some way!
2. Research the Battle of Bosworth.

Create a fact file or poster with as much detail as possible. Think: Who, What, When, Where, Why, Consequences. Feel free to add extra information that you find interesting. This event was the catalyst for the whole of the Tudor reign. If Henry had not beaten Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in August 1485 then he would never have become king and we would not be studying the Tudors.

1. Research: What was the role of a medieval king? How does this differ when compared with the role of the British monarch today?
2. Complete this glossary of key terms. Learning the meaning of these words will give you a genuine headstart to the course!

**Glossary of Key Terms:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monarch** |  |
| **Dynasty** |  |
| **Divine Right** |  |
| **Parliament** |  |
| **Privy Council** |  |
| **Court** |  |
| **Ecclesiastical** |  |
| **Monastic** |  |
| **Erastian** |  |
| **Prerogative** |  |
| **Anti clericalism** |  |
| **Protestantism** |  |
| **Feudal system** |  |
| **Heresy** |  |
| **Laity** |  |
| **Clergy** |  |
| **Purgatory** |  |
| **Patronage** |  |

**Tudor Baseline Assessment**

I know it says assessment, but it is really not. I just want to see how you tackle the exam question to gauge your understanding of the research you have completed.

Answer the question as if it was a GCSE 16 marker. Consider factors!

**‘Henry VII was incredibly lucky to become King of England in 1485’. Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.**

Answer the above essay question. You should aim to write about 2 sides of A4.

I will be looking for the following:

* A balanced answer
* Arguments supported by precise historical knowledge
* Well-structured paragraphs
* A clear judgement that is sustained throughout your essay

**2Q: The American Dream, 1945-1980**

1. Find a map of the United States of America and use this to research the geographical diversity across the different states. Ensure that it shows the divide between northern, southern, mid-West and Western states. Examine each of these four divisions and consider how they each have a ‘unique identity’. It is also worth researching important cities, such as Washington DC, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Memphis and New Orleans, as they too have a unique culture.
2. Find and file a summary of the American Constitution; highlight important laws and amendments. How is this different to our constitution and laws?
3. Research the main political parties in America: the Democrats and the Republicans.

Create a fact file for each Party – what were their key beliefs/policies? Which type of Americans were likely to vote for each Party? When were they in power? add pictures of key presidents and annotate with why they are important. E.g Truman was a Democrat and led America during the Post-War Years.

1. Complete the glossary below of key terms.

**Glossary of Key Terms**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Constitution** |  |
| **Bill of Rights** |  |
| **Executive** |  |
| **Congress** |  |
| **Supreme Court** |  |
| **House of Representatives** |  |
| **Senate** |  |
| **Impeach** |  |
| **Great Migration** |  |
| **Executive Order** |  |
| **Social mobility** |  |
| **‘Iron Curtain’** |  |
| **Containment** |  |
| **Brinkmanship** |  |
| **Inflation** |  |
| **Baby Boom** |  |
| **States’ rights** |  |
| **State of the Union Address** |  |
| **Lynching** |  |
| **HUAC** |  |
| **McCarthyism** |  |
| **De jure/ De facto segregation** |  |
| **Ghettoisation** |  |

**America Baseline Assessment**

It says assessment but I just really want to see what you can do and helps me to gauge how well you have engaged in the activities above.

Answer the question as if it was a GCSE 16 marker. Consider factors!

**“The recovery of the American economy was the main challenge Truman faced when he became President in 1945”. Do you agree with this statement?**

Some pointers to consider:

* Impact of the war against Japan in 1945 – were American winning this? How tough had it been (Pearl Harbour/War in the Pacific/ treatment of prisoners of war)?
* Impact of the war in Europe – America’s role in liberating Europe (D-Day etc…), what state was Europe in by April 1945?
* The American economy – had it benefited from WW2 or was it still in Depression?
* Social divisions – rich vs poor, black vs white etc…

**Please bring your work with you to your first lesson.**

**The AQA Recommended Reading List:**

1C: The Tudors   
*This includes academic books, including the full published works of the historians you will be studying. It is v hefty. I would recommend John Guy’s Tudor England as a reference book. I would also recommend Thomas Penn’s ‘Winter King’ as a good starting point for studying Henry VII’s reign.*   
<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/AQA-70411C-70421C-RL.PDF>

2Q: The American Dream *This includes both academic books and films/popular culture*

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/AQA-70412Q-70422Q-RL.PDF>

**Link to the Specification:**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/specification-at-a-glance>