A-Level History (AQA): Course Overview

There are two A-Level History papers (40% each). They are both 2 and a half hours long. Both papers will contain a compulsory extract question and two essay questions. There is also an NEA piece of Coursework. It is 3500-4000 words and worth 20%

Paper 1C: The Tudors: England, 1485–1603.	**Paper 2Q: The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980**	**Historical Investigation: The origins of World War I**
Breadth Study: The study of significant historical developments over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations.	**Depth Study:** The study in depth of a period of major historical change or development and associated primary evidence.	This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years.
• Section A – one compulsory question linked to historical interpretations (30 marks) • Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)	• Section A – one compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period (30 marks) • Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)	• 3500–4500 words • 40 marks • 20% of A-level • marked by teachers • moderated by AQA

Year 12 Teacher 1: Paper 1		**Year 12: Teacher 2: Paper 2 and NEA**	
Advent Term	Part one: consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485–1547: Henry VII, 1485–1509 • Henry Tudor's consolidation of power: character and aims; establishing the Tudor dynasty • Government: councils, parliament, justice, royal finance, domestic policies • Relationships with Scotland and other foreign powers; securing the succession; marriage alliances • Society: churchmen, nobles and commoners; regional division; social discontent and rebellions • Economic development: trade, exploration, prosperity and depression • Religion; humanism; arts and learning	**Advent Term**	Truman and Post-war America, 1945–1952 • The United States in 1945 and the legacies of the world war: the powers of the presidency; the main political parties; post-war prosperity; regional, ethnic and social divisions • The USA as a Superpower: Truman's character and policies; post-war peace making; the Cold War and 'containment' in Europe and Asia; the response to the rise of Communism in Asia • Truman and post-war reconstruction: the economy; political divisions and domestic problems; the rise of McCarthyism • African-Americans in North and South: the impact of the Second World War; campaigns for Civil Rights; the responses of the federal and state authorities
Lent Term	Part one: consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485–1547: Henry VIII, 1509–1547 • Henry VIII: character and aims; addressing Henry VII's legacy • Government: Crown and Parliament, ministers, domestic policies including the establishment of Royal Supremacy • Relationships with Scotland and other foreign powers; securing the succession • Society: elites and commoners; regional issues and the social impact of religious upheaval; rebellion • Economic development: trade, exploration, prosperity and depression • Religion: renaissance ideas; reform of the Church; continuity and change by 1547	**Lent Term**	Eisenhower: tranquility and crisis, 1952–1960 • The presidency: Eisenhower's personality and the policies of 'dynamic conservatism'; Nixon as Vice-President; the Republican Party; the end of McCarthyism • The growth of the American economy in the 1950s and the impact of the 'consumer society' • The USA and the Cold War: Superpower rivalry and conflict with the USSR; responses to developments in Western and Eastern Europe; reactions to the rise of Communism in Asia; responses to crises in the Middle East • African-Americans in North and South: the emergence of the Civil Rights Movement; the policies and attitudes of the main political parties; the responses of the state and federal authorities
Trinity Term	Part one: consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485–1547: Instability and consolidation: 'the Mid-Tudor Crisis', 1547–1563 (A-level only) • Edward VI, Somerset and Northumberland; royal authority; problems of succession; relations with foreign powers • The social impact of religious and economic changes under Edward VI; rebellion; intellectual developments; humanist and religious thought • Mary I and her ministers; royal authority; problems of succession; relations with foreign powers	**Trinity Term**	John F Kennedy and the 'New Frontier', 1960–1963 • The presidential election of 1960 and reasons for Kennedy's victory; the policies and personalities of the Kennedy administration; the ideas behind the 'New Frontier' • Challenges to American power: the legacy of crises over Berlin and relations with Khrushchev; the challenge of Castro's Cuba; deepening involvement in Vietnam • African-Americans in North and South: the rise of the Civil Rights Movement; the opponents of Civil Rights, including within the Democratic Party; Kennedy's policies in response to the pressures for change • The United States by 1963 **June-July- Teaching of NEA Investigation.**

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Year 13: Teacher 1: Paper 1		Year 13: Teacher 2: Paper 2 and NEA	
Advent Tem	Instability and consolidation: 'the Mid-Tudor Crisis', 1547–1563: The social impact of religious and economic changes under Mary I; rebellion; intellectual developments; humanist and religious thought • Elizabeth I: character and aims; consolidation of power, including the Elizabethan Settlement and relations with foreign powers • The impact of economic, social and religious developments in the early years of Elizabeth's rule	**Advent Term**	**September Year 13: First Draft of NEA due in.** The Johnson Presidency, 1963–1968 (A-level only) • Johnson as President: personality and policies; his pursuit of the 'Great Society'; the impact of the Kennedy legacy; economic developments • Maintaining American world power: escalation of the war in Vietnam; relations between the USA and its Western allies • African-Americans in North and South: developments in the Civil Rights Movement; Johnson's role in passing Civil Rights legislation; the impact of change including urban riots • Social divisions and protest movements: education and youth; feminism; radicalisation of African-Americans; anti-war movements; the role of the media. Republican reaction: the Nixon Presidency, 1968–1974 (A-level only) • The Presidential election of 1968 and the reasons for Nixon's victory: divisions within the Democratic Party; the personalities and policies of the Nixon administration • The restoration of conservative social policies; the reaction to protest movements and forces of social change; economic change and the end of the post-war boom • The limits of American world power: peace negotiations and the continuation of the war in Vietnam and Cambodia; the influence of Kissinger on US policies towards the USSR, Latin America and China • The Watergate Affair and its aftermath: the role of Congress; the resignation of the President; Nixon's political legacy
Lent Term	The triumph of Elizabeth, 1563–1603 (A-level only) • Elizabethan government: court, ministers and parliament; factional rivalries • Foreign affairs: issues of succession; Mary, Queen of Scots; relations with Spain • Society: continuity and change; problems in the regions; social discontent and rebellions • Economic development: trade, exploration and colonisation; prosperity and depression • Religious developments, change and continuity; the English renaissance and 'the Golden Age' of art, literature and music • The last years of Elizabeth: the state of England politically, economically, religiously and socially by 1603	**Lent Term**	**January Year 13: Second Draft of NEA due in.** **February Year 13: Final NEA Input** **Easter Year 13: NEA deadline.** The USA after Nixon, 1974–1980 (A-level only) • Ford and Carter as presidents: responses to social divisions; political corruption and the loss of national self-confidence • The position of the USA as a world power: the final withdrawal from Vietnam; relations with the USSR and China; the response to crises in the Middle East; Iran and Afghanistan • African-Americans in North and South: the impact of civil rights legislation; change and continuity in the 'New South' • The USA by 1980: its position as a Superpower; the extent of social and economic change; the reasons for Reagan's victory in the presidential election.
Trinity Term	**A-Level Revision:** • How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy? • In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period? • How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured? • How did English society and economy change and with what effects? • How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects? • How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?	**Trinity Term**	**A-Level Revision:** This option provides for a study in depth of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the 'American dream' but the prosperity was not shared by all and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the 'American dream' was a reality. It explores concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities and federal versus states' rights. It also encourages students to reflect on the nature of democracy in a pluralist society, political protest and the power of the media.