

History: 20th Century

Units 1-2

Twentieth Century History involves the study of the radical changes, upheavals and wars that have shaped the modern world. The first half of the century was marked by world wars, revolution, economic collapse and the horror of the Holocaust. The USA and USSR emerged from World War Two as the new world superpowers in a new age of atomic weapons. The relationship between these allies soon dissolved into distrust and suspicion and for the next forty years a Cold War was waged between these opposing ideologies. These units provide the skills required for all Unit 3 and 4 History subjects.

UNIT 1

1918-1939

Students will examine specific events between the world wars, exploring the nature of political, social and cultural change. Students will learn to think like historians enabling them to critically analyse and explain the development of crises and conflict and evaluate the validity of different historical perspectives.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Creative responses to historical events, oral presentations, discussion and debates, case studies, internet investigations and group activities.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Use of concepts relevant to the historical context, analysis of written and visual primary source materials, synthesising evidence to draw conclusions, research skills and essay writing skills.

ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, essays, image and document analysis, case studies and an end of semester written examination.

UNIT 2

1945-2000

Students will consider how individuals and communities responded to the political, economic, social and technological developments of the period. They will examine Cold War fear and suspicion and discuss how societies used ideologies to legitimise their worldview. They will study the way grassroots social movements for change such as the Civil Rights movement challenged traditional power structures. The course concludes with case studies of the complexities of refugee experiences of different ethnic groups through the Twentieth Century. Finally, they will draw conclusions about the concept of progress in the 20th Century.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Case study research, oral presentations, internet investigations and group activities.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Use of concepts relevant to the selected historical context, analysis of written and visual materials, synthesising evidence to draw conclusions, research skills and essay writing skills.

ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, essays, image and document analysis, case studies and an end of semester written examination