

HISTORY: NATIONAL 3/4/5

Why History? - In History, learners develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. Learners are encouraged to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas, and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.

Entry to the Course - The History course will be offered at various levels to suit the learning needs of all pupils. Enthusiasm for the subject is all that is required.

Course Outline - Pupils will study three units:

European and World: World War II, 1939–45 – In this unit, pupils continue to build on their work in S3. They will consolidate their previous learning about German territorial expansion at the start of the War. They will then learn about the war with Japan in the East and life in occupied Europe. They will also go on to learn about the allied victories in Europe and Japan at the end of the War.

Scottish: Mary Queen of Scots, and the Reformation, 1542–1587 – This unit builds on the work done in S3 by further looking at this exciting period of Scottish history by learning about the plotting, rebellions, murders and radical change that characterised the nation during the lifetime of Queen Mary.

British: The Making of Modern Britain, 1880-1951 – In this unit, pupils will build on their learning in S3 by learning about how Britain went from a country where the 30% of the population who lived in poverty were largely blamed for their own situation, to a society in which the government accepted responsibility for ensuring the well-being of its people from ‘Cradle to Grave’.

Assessment –

At National 3 and National 4 there are assessments at the end of each of the three units. At National 4 there is also an assignment which will allow learners to apply a range of skills as they research an historical issue.

At National 5 learners will write a report on their own research into an historical theme or question of their own choice. This will be marked by the SQA and will form part of the overall grade awarded. There is also an external exam at the end of the year, which will also be used to determine a pupil’s overall grade, along with the assignment.

For further advice speak to Mr MacKay.