



Why study Elective History?

As Donald Creighton stated:

“History is the record of an encounter between character and circumstance”.

Elective History is one of the most interesting Board of Studies subjects available as it studies many historical subjects that the other history courses do not cover. Through studying Elective History students will understand the events that have influenced and impacted our world in both positive and negative ways.

Elective history enables students who love history to follow their interests as classes are able to choose the topics that they wish to study in greater depth.

What will you gain from studying History?

- A love of History that you will draw upon for the rest of your life, whether it be because you travel the world or want to have an understanding of your place in the bigger picture.
- You'll develop critical thinking skills that will help you in the senior school and can be used in any occupation including analytical thinking, problem solving, decision making, oral and written communication skills.
- You could follow a career path that has History at its core including being a lawyer, archivist, criminologist, writer, journalist, historian, curator, soldier, travel consultant, diplomat, archaeologist and many more.

ELECTIVE HISTORY

What we study in Year 9

We start by investigating Stones to Star Wars which looks at the development of warfare through history. Topics covered include: weapons and armour, ancient and modern battle tactics and a variety of conflicts such as the American War of Independence, World War II in Europe (D-Day) and The Gulf War.

From there we learn about: Disasters such as the Fire of London, Titanic, nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Apollo 13, Chernobyl and the September 11 terrorist attacks.

We then move on to study the role of Mythology in ancient and modern society. We will examine the gods of Greece, Rome, and Egypt and explore some myths such as Pandora's Box and the Golden Fleece, Achilles and Hercules. Other myths that will be examined include King Arthur and Merlin, Nostradamus and the Loch Ness Monster.

Finally, in detail, we explore History Mysteries. We investigate Jack the Ripper, Sweeney Todd, the Bermuda Triangle, Sasquatch, the statues of Easter Island and Stonehenge.

What we study in Year 10

JFK. We investigate all the sources to discover the different theories about JFK's assassination. We comprehensively look at the Warren Commission findings and the reasons for a conspiracy to assassinate the President.

We then conduct a study on the Maya and Aztec Empires of Central America. How did these people live? Why did they believe in human sacrifice? Why were they conquered by the Spanish? What was the effect of Spanish oppression on Mexican culture?

We also research some Famous Personalities such as Napoleon, Adolf Hitler, Cleopatra, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Alexander the Great, Jesus, Buddha, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King jnr, Benjamin Franklin and Julius Caesar.

Finally we delve into a topic of the students choice such as the History of Terrorism where we could explore its origins and how it has developed over time from Hashish assassins to the current war on terror.

History in the Senior School

Modern History and Ancient History are both two unit courses that are studied in Year 11 and 12. Elective History is beneficial for students who are interested in studying history in the senior school as they learn many skills that they can carry over to either of these subjects. It is also a subject for students who love History and want to be challenged intellectually.

