



Why study Modern History?

As John F. Kennedy stated:

“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable”.

Modern History is one of the most interesting Board of Studies subjects as it studies many modern revolutions and wars and how they have impacted the world today. Through studying Modern History students will understand the events that have influenced and impacted our world in both positive and negative ways.

At Galston High School we have achieved outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate in Modern History. You, too, can gain a Band 6 if you want to.

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 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.

MODERN HISTORY

What we study in Year 11

We start by investigating the decline and fall of the Romanov dynasty in Russia. Did Rasputin have supernatural healing powers? How and why did the dynasty collapse? What was the impact of World War I on the royal family?

From there we learn about another revolution: The Cuban Revolution and its impact on Latin America. How did it all begin? Why was Fidel Castro's leadership so important? What role does Spain play in the revolution? How were guerilla tactics used to gain support? Why did the revolutionaries chose to use communism as their new form of government?

We then move on to study the American Civil War and why the issue of slavery led to war. Why was America split in two over the issue? Was Abraham Lincoln an effective war time president? What did the Yankee victory mean for the United States as a country?

Finally, in detail, we explore the World at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century. We investigate changing European society and how this growth led to countries expanding into new territories. We then look at how these factors both indirectly and directly contributed to World War I.

What we study in Year 12

World War One is the core study. We investigate all the sources to discover the key issues of the Great War. We comprehensively look at the Western Front and the reasons for the stalemate, the impact on the home fronts, turning points in the war and finally Allied victory.

We then conduct a National Study on Russia and the Soviet Union. How were the communists successful in the revolution? How did they consolidate power? Why did Stalin rise to power and what was his role in shaping the U.S.S.R.?

We research a personality from the 20th Century. Students have a choice of 27 personalities to research and we also conduct a Personality study on Leon Trotsky in class. We discuss things such as: who was Trotsky and how did he rise to prominence? How did he contribute to the Russian Revolution? Why did he lose the power struggle with Stalin after Lenin's death?

Finally we delve into the Cold War. Why were the USA and USSR in an arms race against each other? Why was the Cuban Missile Crisis the closest the world has ever come to nuclear warfare? Why was the Berlin Wall erected? How and why did communism finally collapse?

Overseas Excursion

Modern history also offers the choice for a unique overseas excursion during the April holidays 2013 to Europe. The excursion is of great benefit to students as we visit many of the places that they will be studying in the Preliminary and HSC.

