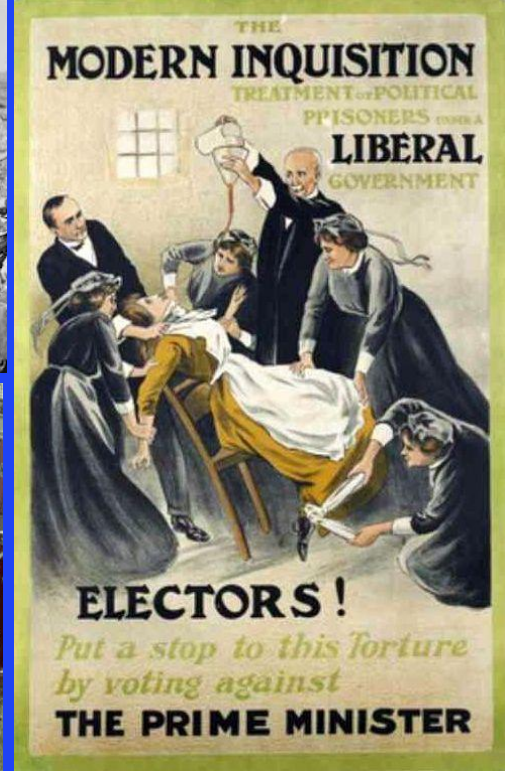


# Studying History at A level: Past lives, future lessons.





# Why should I choose to study History?

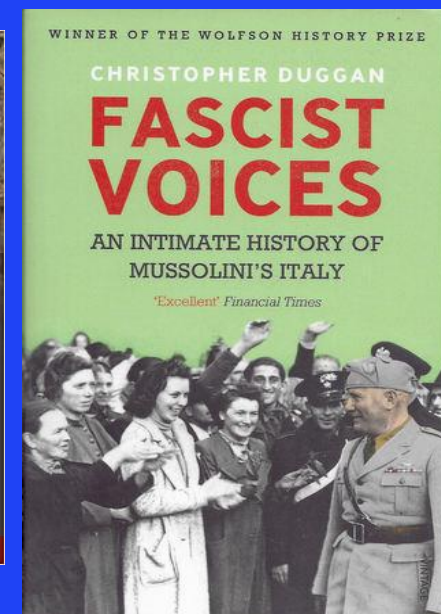
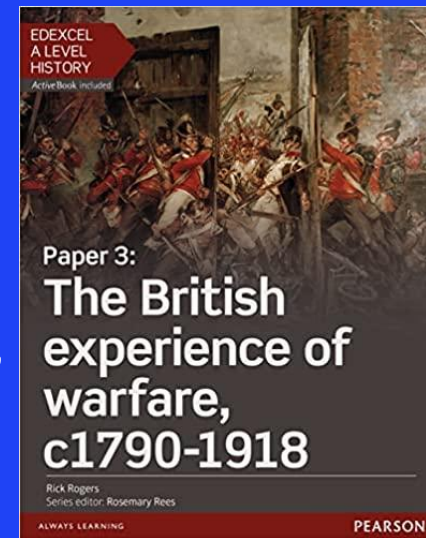
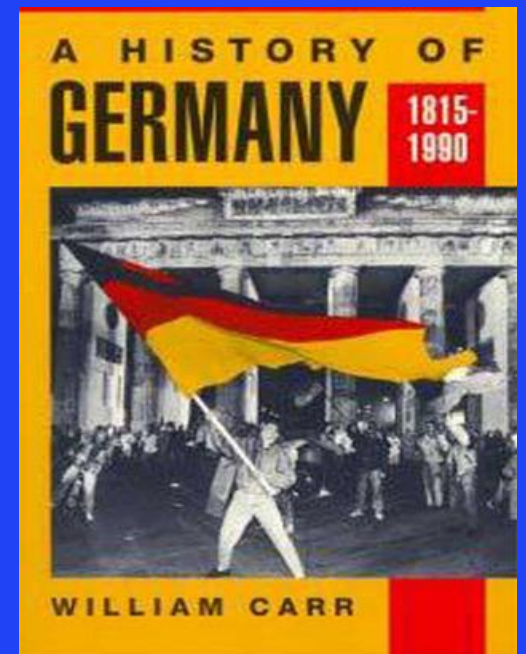
Because you want a well respected A level. History is considered one of the 'hard' options.

Because you need the skills in literacy, communication, analysis and interpretation that History will teach you.

Because History links well with a wide range of subjects, From Arts to Sciences – many universities appreciate a more rounded educational background.

Because you are interested in law, journalism, education, personnel, management, accountancy, civil service...

Because you ENJOY it !!!



# • Why study History at SJWMS?

## • Our results are exceptional

### • A Level

45% A/A\* grade

92% A/B grade

100% A-C grades



- History A level results are consistently some of the highest in the school. Last year our A Level results placed us in the top 25% nationally.
- History is a popular subject, usually with two sets in each year.
- Our team of Mr Hodges, Mrs Mason, Ms Mehaffey, and Mr Nicholson have decades of combined experience and enthusiasm!



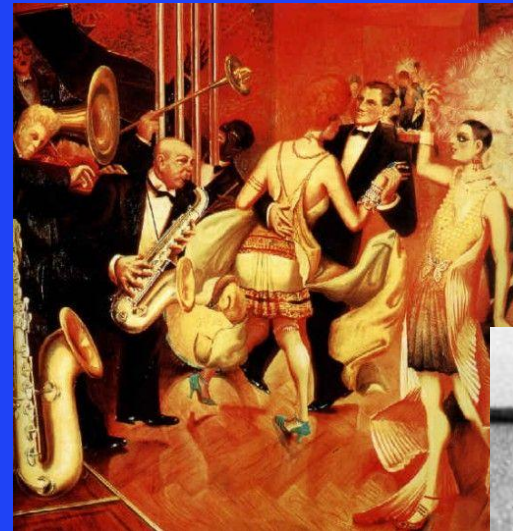
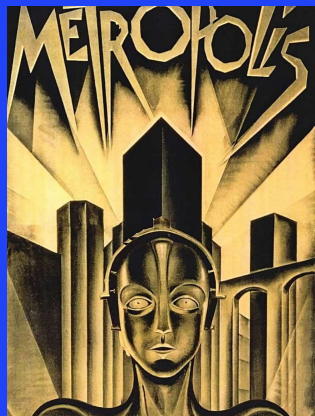
# What will you study?

Paper 1 (30%) Germany and West Germany 1918-89

Paper 2 (20%) Rise and Fall of Fascism in Italy 1911-46



The European units work well together, as two complimentary studies of the rise of Nationalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. You will learn about the forces that destroyed democracy and led to dictatorship and eventually war. You will explore the social and cultural changes in both societies, as well as the political and economic factors that shaped both nations. You will explore the experiences of different types of people, including ethnic minorities, young people, women, and opposition groups.





# What will you study?

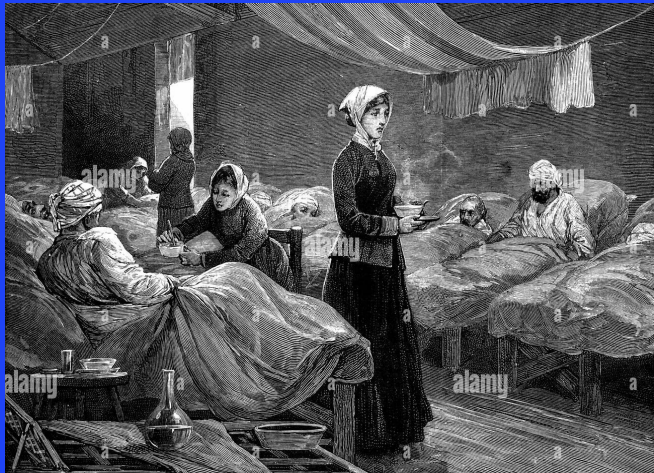
**Paper 3 (30%) The British Experience of Warfare  
1790-1918**

**Paper 4 (20%) Coursework on Causes of First  
World War**

**\*exam board - Edexcel**



The British unit is a thematic study, focusing on how war and conflict shaped Britain. You will learn about Britain's military involvement in three wars, but also about how attitudes towards social welfare, women's rights, and public health changed our nation, with lasting consequences to the present day.



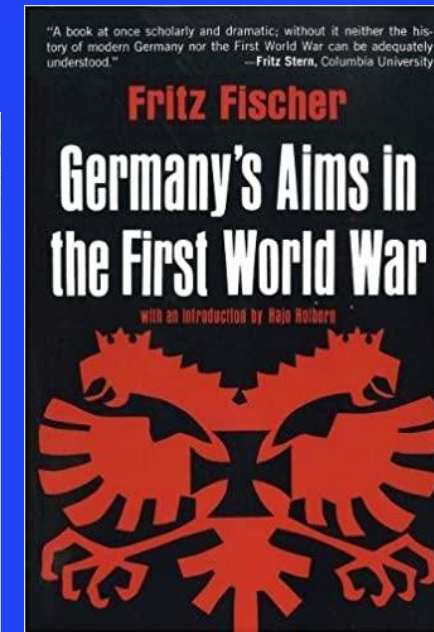
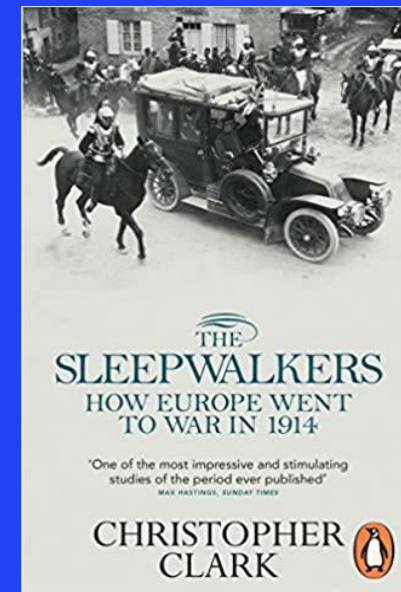
# The Coursework

Coursework makes up 20% of your final grade.

Covers the question of German responsibility for the First World War.

An excellent opportunity to develop independent research Skills and writing carefully drafted work.

Engage directly with historical works to form your own interpretation...





# We take the subject further!

Each year a significant proportions of our cohorts take History at university – including Oxford, Cambridge, and Russell Group universities.

We work hard to challenge our most able students. This includes:

Two pupils taking a subsidised trip to Auschwitz with the Holocaust educational Trust.

Attending lectures and seminars delivered by leading historians.



# We take the subject further - Trips

Every year (apart from the last two) Year 12 students have visited HMS Victory and HMS Warrior at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Year 13 historians have experienced guided battlefield trips to Ypres.

Y13 also attend an academic conference in London on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Germany with leading academics.





## What do our students say about History A level?

"I chose history because I enjoy the subject and looking into the past. It is a subject that interests me and I enjoy being able to analyse past events. It will help me to be more analytical and improve my essay writing prior to university. (current year 12 student)"

"Studying History is particularly useful if you want to go into a legal profession due to the close attention to detail and analytical skills that are required from a strong historian." I chose to study History because I am fascinated by how different socio-economic and cultural circumstances can affect how an individual writes history, and therefore colour our own interpretations

"I chose History because I enjoyed it, even though I am hoping to study marine biology at university. I only needed two sciences so I decided to do history just for the variety. I also think it has helped me with my extended writing and literacy skills - so that will be very useful too."  
(current year 13 students)

You will learn to research, ingest, and understand information from a range of sources that offer different and challenging perspectives on events and the wider world. In light of competing evidence you will learn to balance interests in your interpretations, argue, examine, and defend different perspectives. You will learn how to present what you have understood and analysed, producing compelling writing that persuades and explains to all audiences.

Talent in these areas does not go out of fashion, they can always be 'sold' on a CV, in an interview, and always have value. The work I do now uses information that rarely goes back past the 21st century – depending on your strictness this might not be 'history' at all – and yet I use these skills all the time. I write reports, research the context behind certain data, and create presentations drawing on different sources... all of which are invaluable. As a means to an end, or an end in itself, you can't really go wrong with A level History! (Past student Now working at the Bank of England)

**When preparing for my university interview, I found myself drawing upon skills I had learnt in History-----The A level History teaching staff are truly dedicated, and care about individual students and their passion, enthusiasm and commitment were of huge benefit to me and my cohort. (student, currently studying Law at Cambridge.)**



# Interview with one of our past students

## **Why did you pick to study History at A-level?**

I chose to study History at A-level because I wanted to take a subject that would offer me variety and allow me to learn about interesting and exciting moments in time, not just in the UK. I also thought it would compliment my other A-level choices (English Lit and Politics) which I believe it did.

## **What are you doing now? How do you think the History A-level has helped you to get there?**

I just graduated from the University of Nottingham with a First-Class BA in Politics and International Relations. I have remained at the university and am now studying MA International Security and Terrorism. On a base level, my History A-level helped me get here as I found the subject engaging and well taught, allowing me to get a good grade. I also found during my university search that most social sciences and humanities courses really appreciate a History A-level and consider it a strong subject.

## **Why would you recommend taking History A-level to others?**

I would recommend taking History A-level because I really enjoyed my experience studying for it and it was my favourite subject. The syllabus offered by the school is varied and interesting and I felt well-equipped to get a good grade. I would also recommend it specifically to anybody hoping to study an essay subject at degree level, as it certainly allowed me to enter university with a strong base of analytical and written skills. However, no matter what you hope to do after sixth form, it's a great subject and there was a good community amongst those who took it when I was at the school which I think really helped everyone to enjoy it and do well

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# And finally ---

- Mrs mason says:
- I am passionate about my subject, and giving students the best possible experience. It is an honour and a responsibility to teach History, because it is important to be true to the past and to allow a voice to people who are part of that past. By studying the forces of good and evil that shaped our nation and our world, there are lessons to be learned and passed on to future generations. History allows us a window into the experiences of people who came before us. It teaches us about moral choices and how they affect societies. It warns us about the dangers of intolerance and extremism. Perhaps, just perhaps, it enables us to be more thoughtful, more measured, more compassionate, in short, better people.