The Course

An inquisitive approach to the past and a willingness to work hard will ensure success in this course. History encourages debate about the past based on historical evidence. The period studied at A Level builds upon some topics and themes covered at GCSE as well as developing new areas of focus.

The periods studied have been chosen for their historical importance and because of the many and varied resources available. The combination of units at A Level blend a variety of political, social, economic, religious and military issues and involve the assessment of individual rights and freedoms and the way in which different groups and sections of society tried to achieve these in Britain and across the world. The skills required for success at A Level are the same as those needed for GCSE, though at a significantly more advanced level.

Course content and assessment

- A unit on Tudor England will be studied, focusing on Henry VII and Henry VIII in Year 12 and Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I in Year 13. Students will assess the impact of monarchy and government on people and the significance of individual leadership, religion and political change.
- A unit on America in the 20th Century will address key changes in society and foreign policies, including race relations, the Vietnam War and the importance of key presidents, from Truman to Carter, 1945-1980.
- In Year 13 you will undertake an historical enquiry on a key theme to complete a 3000-4000 word coursework essay, involving research and analysis of Russia 1855-1964 to assess long and short term causes and consequences of change.



Courses listing
Robert Smyth Academy Prospectus