

Year 7 SFA History Curriculum

Outline of history at SFA: We inspire a deep love of History by reflecting the diverse cultures and faiths of our community. Through compassion, critical thinking, and a strong sense of stewardship, we equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values to become thoughtful, responsible global citizens, grounded in faith and ready for the future.

Assessment: There is two assessment points per topic. The first is a mid-point assessment. This is one question and will either be sourced based or an extended written response. The second assessment will be a knowledge test. This will be a selection of questions and tasks in which we test student knowledge of the topic which they will have completed.

Homework: Homework is set weekly on Classcharts. A homework booklet will be provided which will have weekly tasks, much of it including wider reading to ensure SFA historians are not only reading but enriching their historical knowledge. Twice per half term revision will be set in the run up to assessments.

Topic and “Big Question”	What do we cover in this topic?
Topic: Introduction to History KB1 Big Question: What skills do you need to be a historian?	This booklet introduces students to the skills needed to be a historian. It explains how history is studied at St Francis, the role of primary and secondary sources, and the importance of content, provenance, and interpretation. Students learn about chronology, centuries, timelines, and historical dating (BC/BCE, AD/CE). The booklet explores how history can be used positively for learning and understanding, but also dangerously through bias, propaganda, or manipulation.
Topic: Medieval African Kingdoms KB2: Big Question: What was great about medieval Africa?	This booklet focuses on precolonial African Kingdoms and their culture. Throughout their study at KS3 students will return to Africa in context of colonialization. This booklet provides important knowledge on why Africa became such an important continent in world history and what made it a target for exploitation. Students will focus on countries like Mali and Benin, they will also learn about figures like Mansa Musa.
Topic: 1066 succession crisis and Norman consolidation of power KB3 Big Question: What was the succession crisis of 1066 and its consequences?	This booklet focuses on the causes and consequences of the succession crisis of 1066. Students begin by exploring England in 1066, the rival claims to the throne, and why the Normans won the Battle of Hastings. They then examine how William the Conqueror secured his rule through castles, the feudal system, harsh treatment of rebels, and the Domesday Book.
Topic: The power of Church and State including the Islamic Empire and Crusades KB4 Big Question: Which was more powerful, the Church or the State?	This booklet focuses on power between the Church and the State in England. This links directly to what year 7 will be doing at the end of the academic year when they look at the Reformation and the Tudors. This booklet explores the power of the Medieval Church, the role of Monasteries, King Henry II and King John’s challenges against the Church and the Crusades.
Topic: Life for medieval peasants including the peasant’s revolt of 1381 KB5 Big Question: What was life in medieval England like?	This booklet explores life in Medieval England. It covers the harsh daily lives of peasants (freemen and villeins), the significant workload of women, and the unhygienic conditions of towns. Students will learn about medieval beliefs in medicine, the causes and catastrophic impact of the Black Death, and the subsequent Peasants' Revolt of 1381. The unit concludes by examining the revolt's long-term effects, which ultimately improved peasants' rights and living conditions.
Topic: War of the Roses 1455 - 1487 KB6 Big Question: How did the Tudors establish themselves as monarchs?	This booklet covers the Wars of the Roses and the establishment of the Tudor dynasty. It explains the civil wars between the Houses of Lancaster and York, culminating in Henry Tudor's victory at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Students will investigate the controversial reign of Richard III, including the mystery of the Princes in the Tower. It concludes by exploring how Henry VII secured his throne by defeating rivals, controlling the barons, strengthening finances, and forging strategic marriages and foreign alliances.
Topic: The Reformation and the Tudor Dynasty 1485 – 1603 KB7 Big Question: How did the Tudors change the church in England?	This booklet explores how the Tudors transformed the Church in England. It begins with Martin Luther’s Protestant Reformation, then details Henry VIII’s break from Rome to secure a divorce and control the Church. Subsequent changes under Edward VI (Protestant), Mary I (Catholic), and Elizabeth I (Middle Way) are examined. It also highlights Tudor diversity through figures like John Blanke and discusses Elizabeth’s reign, including the Spanish Armada and Shakespeare.

Year 8 SFA History Curriculum

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Topic: The Stuart Dynasty, the English Civil War and the Restoration 1603 - 1685 KB8 Big Question: Why did Civil War break out in England in 1642, and what were its results?	This booklet continues James I’s reign taking over after Elizabeth I and explores the causes, events, and consequences of the English Civil War (1642–1651). Students will learn why conflict broke out between King Charles I and Parliament, examining issues like the King's Personal Rule, unpopular taxes like Ship Money, and religious changes that angered Puritans. The unit covers the nature of the fighting, the creation of the New Model Army, and why Parliament ultimately won. It also examines the trial and execution of Charles I, the establishment of a republic under Oliver Cromwell, and the eventual Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 under Charles II.
Topic: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery 1562 - 1833 KB9 Big Question: What was the British Empire and what was its involvement in Slavery?	This booklet explores the British Empire's formation and its central role in the transatlantic slave trade. It covers the empire's expansion driven by 'God, Gold, and Glory', the brutal process of the slave trade (including the Middle Passage and plantation life), and the experiences of Black Britons. The unit also details the various forms of resistance by enslaved people and the long campaign for abolition, which was achieved in 1807, with slavery itself abolished in 1833. Finally, it examines the lasting legacy of this history, including modern slavery and ongoing debates about commemoration.
Topic: The British Empire globally with a focus on India 1497 – 1997 KB10 Big Question: What was the British Empire’s impact on countries globally?	This Booklet explores the British Empire's global impact, focusing on its influence in China and India. They will learn about the Opium Wars in China and how Britain's search for new trade routes led to the "Scramble for Africa". The curriculum also covers Britain's control of India, the Indian Mutiny of 1857, and the social, cultural, and economic changes Britain brought to the country. Finally, they will analyze how historians view the legacy of British rule and the lasting impact it has on the UK.
Topic: The Industrial Revolution in Britain 1760 – 1840 KB11 Big Question: How did the Industrial Revolution change Britain?	This booklet looks at how the Industrial Revolution changed Britain between 1750 and 1900. They will learn about the rapid population increase and how agriculture had to become more productive through inventions like the seed drill and the Norfolk Rotation. The booklet also covers the shift from home-based textile production to factories and the use of new machines. Students will examine the role of child labor, factory conditions, and public health issues like cholera in overcrowded cities.
Topic: Social change, reform and Suffrage late 19th century till mid-20th century KB12 Big Question: How had the political landscape of Britain changed by the mid-20 th century?	This booklet will focus the fight for women's suffrage in Britain, including a look into the political context of Britain in the early 20 th century, the peaceful methods of the Suffragists and the militant actions of the Suffragettes. They will learn about the social attitudes towards women in the late 19th century and how their roles changed during WWI. This also includes a look into the lives of women before suffrage, including a study on Hallie Rubenhold’s “The Five.”
Topic: World War One and what caused it 1914 – 1918 KB13 Big Question: Why was WW1 such a significant war in World History?	Students are exploring why WWI was a significant global event. The curriculum analyzes who was at fault, considering interpretations that blame Germany, Europe's alliances, or Serbia. They'll also learn how Britain recruited soldiers, including "Pals Battalions," and examine the brutal realities of trench warfare, new technologies like tanks, and the role of the British Empire's forces. The Battle of the Somme is a key topic. Finally, students will examine the reasons for the Allies' victory.

Year 9 SFA History Curriculum

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<p>Topic: The Interwar Years and the Rise of Adolf Hitler in Germany 1919 - 1939</p> <p>KB14 Big Question: Why did Adolf Hitler come to power in Germany, and how did this change people's lives?</p>	<p>In this booklet students explore the factors that led to Adolf Hitler's rise to power and the changes this brought to people's lives. It covers the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles and economic problems that weakened Germany's Weimar Republic. They will learn how Hitler consolidated his power, turning the country into a dictatorship through events like the Reichstag Fire and the Enabling Act. Finally, students will examine how life changed for young people and women under the Nazi regime.</p>
<p>Topic: The Holocaust and its origins 1933 – 1945</p> <p>KB15 Big Question: Why was the Holocaust such a significant event in Twentieth Century history?</p>	<p>In this booklet students focus on why the Holocaust was a significant event in history. The curriculum covers Jewish life before the Nazis' rise to power and how Nazi ideology, including Hitler's belief in the "Aryan" race , led to persecution. Students will learn about key events like the Nuremberg Laws and Kristallnacht. The booklet also explains how the Holocaust was carried out through mass shootings and death camps such as Auschwitz , and its results since 1945.</p>
<p>Topic: World War Two 1939 – 1945</p> <p>KB16 Big Question: What were the key turning points of World War Two?</p>	<p>This booklet explores the key turning points of World War II. It covers the German invasion of Poland that began the war, the rapid "Blitzkrieg" conquests in Western Europe, and the crucial evacuation at Dunkirk. It also focuses on the Battle of Britain, the impact on the Home Front with topics like evacuation and rationing, and major battles like Stalingrad, Pearl Harbor, and D-Day. Finally, the booklet examines the Allied decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan.</p>
<p>Topic: The Cold War 1947 – 1991</p> <p>KB17 Big Question: How close was the Cold War to Armageddon?</p>	<p>This booklet explores the Cold War, a conflict of threats between capitalist and communist nations. Students will examine the origins of the Cold War and the disagreements from wartime conferences. It covers the creation of "spheres of influence" that led to the Iron Curtain, and key events like the Berlin Blockade and Airlift. The curriculum also addresses the "Hot Wars" in Korea and Vietnam, and the Cuban Missile Crisis, the closest the world came to nuclear war. Finally, the booklet explores how the war ended.</p>

GCSE History SFA Curriculum

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Assessment: GCSE students are assessed regularly with exam style questioning throughout their study. They will complete timed questions in lesson and then receive specific feedback. They will also do mocks in both Y10 and Y11.

Homework: Homework is set weekly on Classcharts. Homework is based on the knowledge booklets and exam skills. Revision will also be set in the lead up to mocks and timed questions in lesson.

Exam: The AQA GCSE is made up of two papers, an hour each, which give questions about two topics each.

GCSE Topic	What do we cover in this topic?
Paper 1, part one: America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality (40 marks)	This study explores the USA from 1920 to 1973, a period of prosperity, crisis, and social change. It examines the 1920s economic boom, consumerism, cultural shifts, Prohibition, and racial tensions. It then covers the Great Depression, Hoover’s failures, Roosevelt’s New Deal, and the impact of World War Two. Post-war America focuses on prosperity, McCarthyism, popular culture, and civil rights campaigns. Finally, it looks at Kennedy and Johnson’s social policies, feminism, and the continuing struggle between opportunity and inequality in American society.
Paper 1, part two: Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918–1939 (44 marks)	This depth study examines international relations after the First World War, focusing on peace-making, the League of Nations, and the outbreak of the Second World War. It explores the Versailles Settlement, its impact, and reactions to it, as well as the successes and failures of the League and diplomacy beyond it. The study analyses Hitler’s aims, Allied responses, appeasement, and the role of key individuals such as Hitler, Stalin, and Chamberlain in causing war. It highlights competing interests, international tensions, and the difficulty of securing lasting peace.
Paper 2, part one: Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day (44 marks)	This thematic study explores the development of medicine and public health in Britain from the Middle Ages to the present. It examines causes, treatments, and the impact of war, religion, government, science, and individuals on progress. Students study continuity and change in medical knowledge, surgery, disease prevention, and public health. Key themes include medieval medicine, Renaissance discoveries, Germ Theory, industrial reforms, and modern healthcare, including the NHS. Wider world developments are considered, showing how ideas and events shaped Britain’s medical progress and society.
Paper 2, part two: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603 (40 marks)	This depth study examines the last 35 years of Elizabeth I’s reign, exploring political, religious, social, economic, and cultural developments. Students study Elizabeth’s character, court, ministers, relations with Parliament, and issues of marriage and succession. Life in Elizabethan England is explored through prosperity, poverty, theatre, and voyages of sailors like Drake and Raleigh. Troubles include religious tensions, Mary Queen of Scots, and conflict with Spain culminating in the Armada. A historic environment site is also studied in context, linking location, design, function, and events.

A-Level History SFA Curriculum

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Assessment: A Level students are assessed regularly with exam style questioning throughout their study. They will complete timed questions in lesson and then receive specific feedback. They will also do mocks in both Y12 and Y13.

Homework: Homework is set weekly on Classcharts. Homework is based on the knowledge booklets and exam skills. Revision will also be set in the lead up to mocks and timed questions in lesson.

Exam: The OCR A-level is made up off three exams and an NEA (coursework). The course is 200 marks.

A – Level Topic	What do we cover in this topic?
Y108 - The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603–1660 (50 marks – 25%) Enquiry topic: The Execution of Charles I and the Interregnum (1646–1660)	Students will explore the Early Stuarts and the causes of the English Civil War. They will study James I's relationship with Parliament, his financial and religious challenges, and Charles I's reign, including his Personal Rule. Students will examine the conflict between Crown and Parliament, the Civil War, and its outcomes. They will also investigate the execution of Charles I, the Interregnum under the Commonwealth and Protectorate, and the eventual Restoration of Charles II in 1660.
Y221 - Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963 (30 marks – 15%)	Students will study Germany's turbulent history from 1919 to 1963. They will explore the creation of the Weimar Republic, the challenges of hyperinflation, the relative stability of the "Golden Years," and the Depression's role in the Nazi rise to power. They will examine how Hitler established dictatorship, including the use of propaganda, terror, and domestic policies. The course also covers Germany during the Second World War and post-war division, comparing the Federal Republic's "economic miracle" with life in the GDR.
Y316 - Britain and Ireland 1791–1921 (80 marks – 40%)	Students will examine Ireland's complex relationship with Britain between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. They will study opposition to the Union through revolutionary and constitutional nationalism, as well as support for Union from groups such as the Protestant Ascendancy and Ulster Unionists. The course explores reforms including Catholic Emancipation and Home Rule, alongside the impact of famine and economic change on nationalism. Depth studies include Irish rebellions, Daniel O'Connell's campaigns, and the political crisis over Home Rule.
Y100 - Russia / USSR 1905-1991 (40 marks – 20%)	Students will study Russia and the USSR from the failed 1905 Revolution to the collapse of Communism in 1991. They will examine the fall of Tsarism, the 1917 Revolutions, and the rise of Lenin and Stalin. The course explores the USSR's role in the Second World War, Khrushchev's de-Stalinisation, and Gorbachev's reforms of glasnost and perestroika. Students will also investigate how these events led to the end of the USSR, with one chosen topic forming the basis of their NEA.