

Welcome



“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”

Why history? – Careers



Heritage, Culture & Preservation

- Archivist
- Museum or Gallery Curator
- Conservation Officer
- Exhibitions Officer
- Heritage Manager
- Historic Buildings Inspector

Education & Academia

- History Teacher
- University Lecturer
- Academic Researcher / Historian

Media, Writing & Communication

- Journalist
- Broadcaster / Media Producer
- Marketing / PR / Communications Specialist

Law & Legal Professions

- Lawyer
- Solicitor

Government, Politics & Public Service

- Policy Officer
- Policy/ Economic advisors
- Political Analyst
- Civil Service roles
- Public Administration roles

Business, Finance & Professional Services

- Accountant
- Finance roles
- Banking roles

Charity, Social & Research Sectors

- Social Researcher
- Charity / Nonprofit roles

Lots of other roles! Just consider all the history you see in media (books, documentaries, films), how examples of the past is used to make political and financial decisions. Think of how the skill of evaluating evidence or debate could be used!

Why history? – Skills



Critical Thinking & Judgement

- Evaluating arguments and interpretations
- Deciding how far evidence supports a conclusion
- Assessing reliability, utility, and significance of source

Analytical Skills

- Breaking down complex events and identifying causes, consequences, change and continuity
- Understanding patterns and connections across periods and themes

Research Skills

- Finding, selecting, and using evidence
- Forming independent arguments in essays and coursework (NEA)

Independent Learning

- Managing long-term projects (especially the NEA)
- Working through reading lists and archival material

Argumentation & Debate

- Defending a viewpoint logically
- Understanding and critiquing opposing arguments

Contextual Awareness

- Understanding why and how societies change
- Recognising how political, economic, social, and cultural factors interact

Problem-Solving

- Making sense of incomplete or conflicting evidence
- Reconstructing a narrative from partial or various sets of information

Empathy & Perspective-Taking

- Understanding the motives, beliefs, and limitations of people in the past
- Appreciating multiple viewpoints

What subjects in history?



In the history department at St Francis we use OCR. Your history course therefore **must** cover a roughly even mixture of British and non-British history. It also **must** cover a range of at least 200 years overall minimum, which means that we have to cover at least one period of History from before the 19th or 20th centuries. So...

- The Early Stuarts and the Civil War 1603 – 1660 (Y108) – 25% source based exam.
- Democracy & Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963 (Y221) – 15% knowledge based exam.
- Britain & Ireland 1791 – 1921 (Y316) – 40% interpretations based exam.
- Coursework on USSR 1917 to 1991 (Y100) -20% NEA (coursework).

The Early Stuarts and the Civil War 1603 – 1660



This part of the course is taught by Mr Garrett. Here is what he has to say about it:

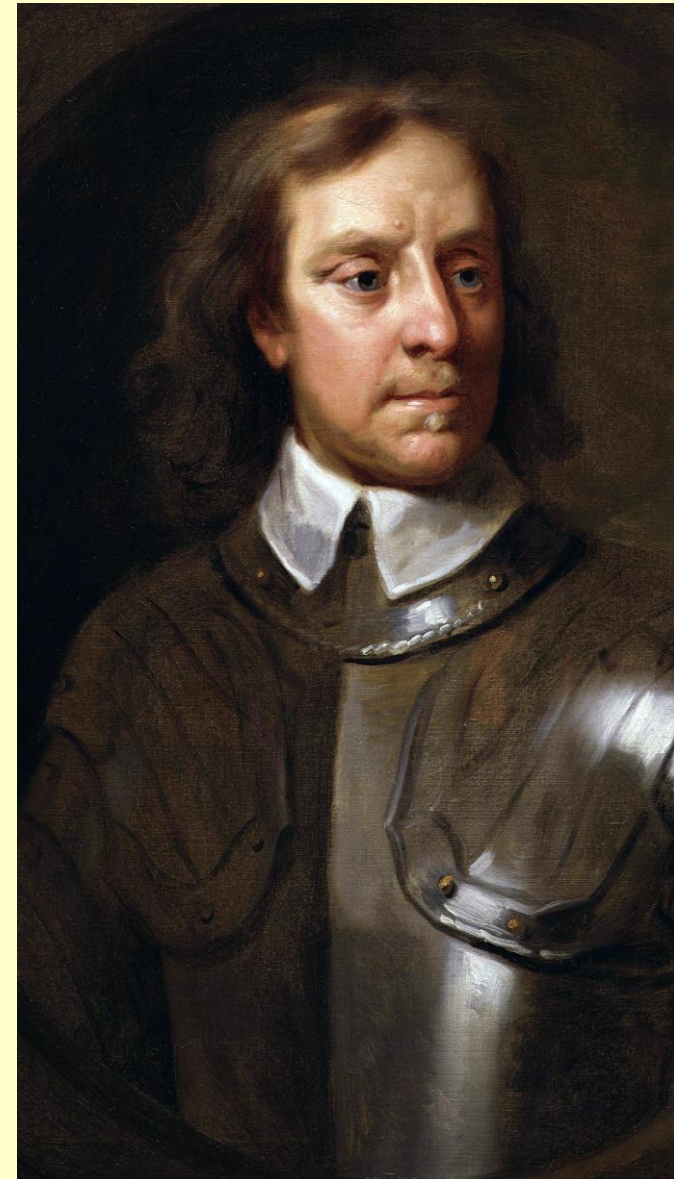
This period is the most explosive period in British History including rebellion and revolution, the bloody Civil War and its republican aftermath, muskets at Edgehill, axes in Whitehall, the imitation of Christ on the rutted road into Bristol...

If you want to know about some of the greatest set pieces in British history... then this is the period of History for you!

- “Terrorists” concealing their gunpowder under Westminster (were they framed!?)
- Controversial kings
- The King striding into the Commons to find his birds have flown
- “Edgehill fight” – families rent apart as Englishman takes arms against Englishman
- The anointed King on trial for his life
- Britain without its monarchy and controversial Cromwell?!
- Christmas and football banned?!

Essentially the greatest political debate in British history!

Source: Oliver Cromwell, Lord protector to a Britain without a monarchy.



Democracy & Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963



How on earth does one great empire go from losing a war...
to having the threat of a communist revolution and hyperinflation where money was essentially worthless...
to having a golden period of progression...
to entering a depression...
to electing a poorly educated and struggling Austrian who was obsessed with German nationalism and a fervent antisemite...
who consolidates an extreme right fascist dictatorship, “solves” German economic issues, starts WW2 and leads one of the largest industrial mass killing of millions of people...
to looking like you could win WW2 in a few years...
to failing to invade Britain, reach Moscow and then lose the war while elderly to children fight for you...
to splitting German into 4...
to having to essentially reeducate a large chunk of the population and hunt down nazis...
to becoming two opposing ideological ideas, one being a capitalist state and one being a communist state...
to becoming the center of a Cold War and then building a wall to separate the two sides of the country.

Yeah...it's a good question! Find out with either Mr Wisniewski or Mrs Somerville in what might be the most important part of modern history that we certainly don't want to repeat!



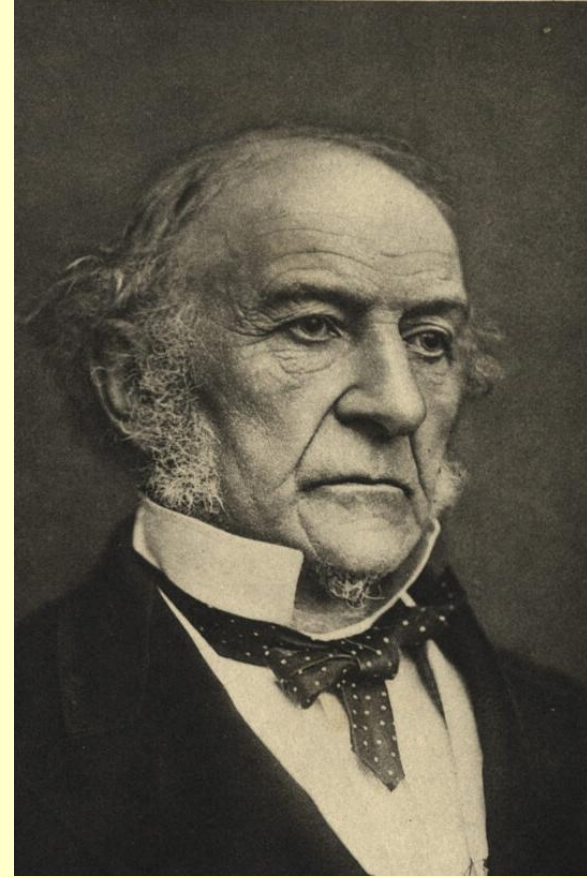
Source: Adolf Hitler

Britain & Ireland 1791 – 1921



Wolfe Tone's Rebellion to independence and partition... how does the closest member of the British empire find itself separate?

- To what extent did the ideas of the French Revolution inspire rebellion in Ireland in 1798?
- Was the Act of Union a solution to Ireland's problems or the start of new ones?
- How far did Daniel O'Connell transform Irish politics?
- Was the Great Famine a natural disaster or a political failure?
- Why did constitutional nationalism fail to deliver Home Rule before 1914?
- Why did Ulster Unionism become such a powerful force by the early 20th century?
- How did cultural movements reshape Irish national identity?
- Was Ireland on the brink of civil war before the First World War?
- How did the First World War change the political landscape in Ireland?
- Why did the Easter Rising fail militarily but succeed politically?
- How did a small guerrilla movement challenge the British Empire?
- Was the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty a victory for nationalism or a compromise with empire?



Source: Gladstone – the scouse PM who promised to emancipate the Irish with Home Rule... what could go wrong?!

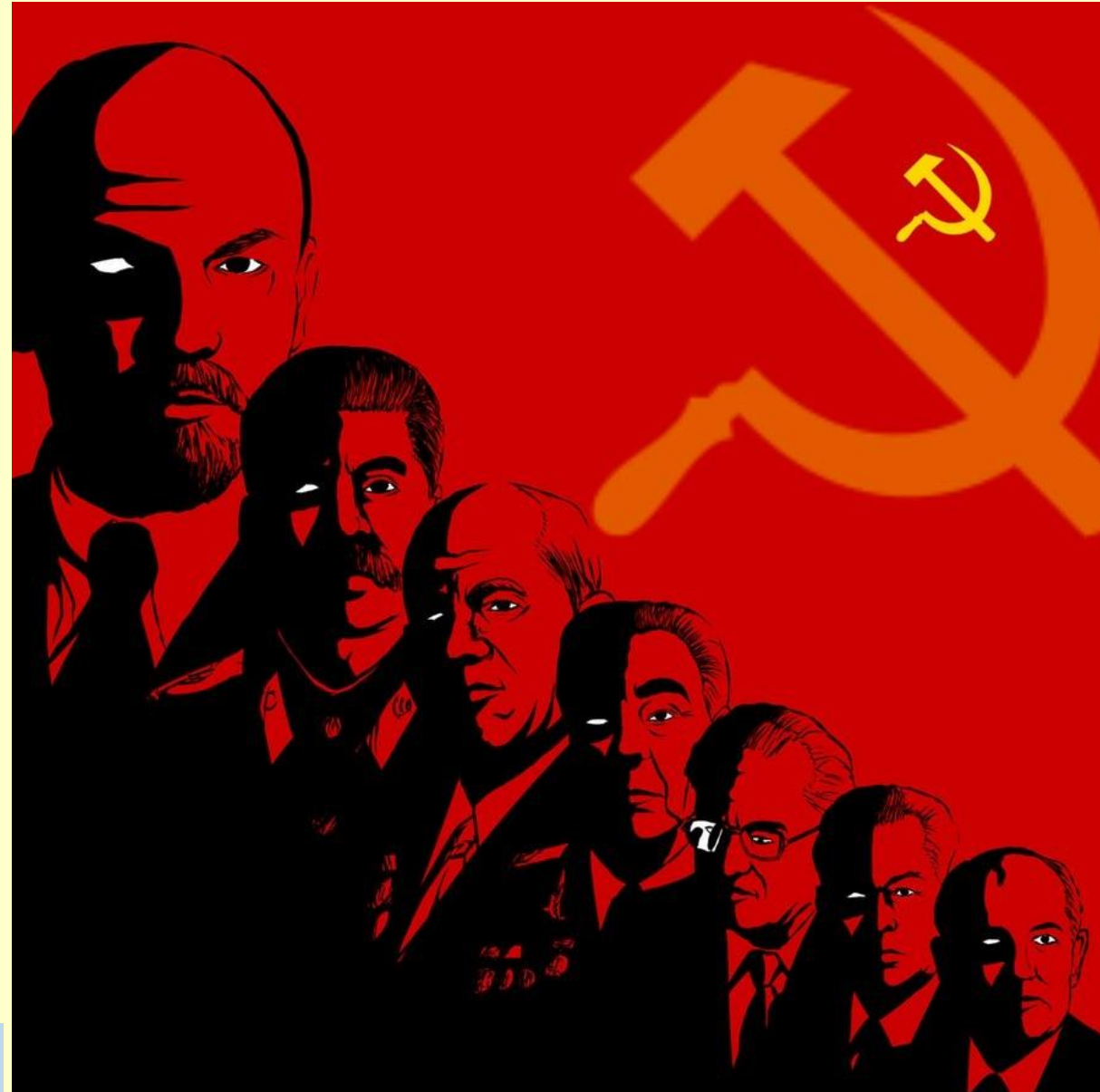
USSR 1917 to 1991



The workers revolution! Will they regret it? An amazing of history that goes right up to 1991 and Gorbachev appearing in a Pizza Hut advert... the absolute opposite to what his country had been aiming for since 1917!

- What happened to the Tsars (did Anastasia survive...no.)
- Rasputin – mystic monk or manipulative man?
- Lenin and the revolution
- Stalin's suspicious way to power
- The purges and the Gulags
- Khrushchev, destalinisation and the Cold War heats up (will the world end?! – no.)
- Breznev...the economy was a bit stagnant
- Gorbachev ...lets tell everyone about everything bad the USSR did through Glasnost and reshape the economy through perestroika... lets not talk about Cherynobyl though!

Source: Soviet leaders



Why St Francis specifically?



Our teachers are excellent and specialists in the subject! It is fully resourced, we provide all the booklets, textbooks and books needed. However...our results can do the talking:

Since Covid...

- In 2022/23, from 30 candidates, all passed, with 26 gaining at least a C grade, and four A* or A grades.
- In 2024, of 14 candidates, we had 3 As, 7 Bs and 4 Cs
- In 2025, of 10 candidates, we had 1 A*, 2 As, 4 Bs, 2 Cs and 1 D

So in four examination years from 2022, 54 students have sat History A Level, with 49 (91%) getting at least a Grade C, and 10 (19%) an A or A* grade.

Why St Francis specifically?



Please look at the wall outside history to see where our students are today with history. Members of recent History A level groups have studied History at Universities including Durham, Manchester, Liverpool, Exeter, Nottingham and Lancaster

One of our former students got a First at Durham in History in 2022, and another achieved a prize winning First at Exeter in 2023.

Last year, we had a former student get a First at Nottingham, and two other students got a II:i at Oxford.

Of 2025's students, one has begun a History degree at Leeds, another at Manchester and another at Birmingham, and another student has begun a Social and Political Sciences degree at Cambridge.



Source: Out of an Oxford History specialist group...two of them were SFA historians

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Source: Two of 2022's Year 13 students who have just finished studying History at Oxford (one is doing a Master at Birmingham this year, and one a Masters at Queen's Belfast

Why St Francis specifically?



Lizzie also got a Distinction in her Master's, and has recently completed a Ph.D.

She is a regular writer for BBC History magazine, and the related publication, BBC History Revealed.

She has recently took part in a History documentary at Bowood House where she explored archival history about a scientist called Dr Joesph Priestly (who is the reason why you have fizzie drinks today).

She is also the main historian consulted for things about Bridgerton as that is her specialist era.



Source: Dr Lizzie Rogers – Historian.

So overall why history?



- A record of outstanding exam success
- A well resourced and well taught course
- Teaches skills that are crucial to a range of professions
- Understand the future by understanding the past
- First access to trips!

Any questions? Please consult our sixthform historians and the resources provided.