

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Frequently Asked Questions



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

What topics do you study?

At Highdown we follow a thematic approach across KS3, looking at a different theme in each year: Rule Makers and Rule Breakers in Year7; Society, Ideas and Culture in Y8; and Wars and Warfare in Year 9. See the website for further details.

How are students grouped in History?

Students are taught in mentor groups in Key Stage 3, and in mixed ability option groups at Key Stage 4 and 5.

Do you run any extra-curricular activities and trips?

We run a variety of trips in History, including to the Somme, Berlin, Krakow, the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament. We also invite historians and politicians to come and do talks for students, and the magistrate and local police to talk to Sociology students. We also run a variety of competitions and events, including commemorations of key historical moments such as Hariboiled Humanities, Armistice100 and Black History Month.

How are students assessed?

We assess students in a number of ways enabling all to achieve: low stakes testing and quizzing is a regular feature of lessons to assist recall, regular written feedback and whole class feedback, verbal feedback, as well as more formal assessments.

How popular is History as an option?

Every year we have high uptake in History at all levels. It is a popular subject at GCSE with 4 or 5 classes. At A level we offer three subjects, History, Sociology and Government and Politics. All three subjects are popular options, with two classes in A level History and Sociology. Many students thoroughly enjoy History and go on to take our subjects at university.