

Introduction to History (British Social & Economic History)

Why study History?

Have you ever wondered why towns are built in the way they are, why the countryside looks like a patchwork quilt, or why people are concerned about our industrial 'heritage'? In 1700, Britain was mainly a country of villages with many poor people living in draughty, damp and overcrowded cottages. A hundred and fifty years later, people were marvelling at the best of British invention, technology and superiority. However, there was a human price to be paid for this transformation – people worked long hours and lived in dreadful conditions. This course covers the story of these people and their struggle for better public health, education, trade unions and rights.

As well as being exciting, this course will help you to develop skills which will be useful in a wide range of jobs or in the further study of History.

You will study:

- * Agriculture, Industry and Transport in the 18th and 19th centuries (the core);
- * Public Health and Housing;
- * One Thematic Study chosen from the following:
 - Medicine, Surgery and Health; 1750-1990
 - Poverty; 1815-1990
 - Trade Unions and Working-Class Movements; 1800-1990
 - The Changing Roles and Status of Women; 1840-1990.

You will learn the following skills:

- * How to interpret and evaluate pieces of information (sources);
- * How to communicate and apply your knowledge;
- * How to describe and analyse the key features of the period studied;
- * Critical thinking and problem solving.

You will have the opportunity to study photographs, films, videos, CD-ROMs, newspapers and original written sources.

Assessment:

The examination papers cover the full range of grades from G to A*. There are three aspects to your assessment.

Coursework

You will write two assignments of about 1250 words each and they will be based on one Thematic Study that is different from the one chosen for Paper 1. Assignment 1 covers the significance of an individual, development, place or event. Assignment 2 is an investigation of an historical issue taken from a local study.

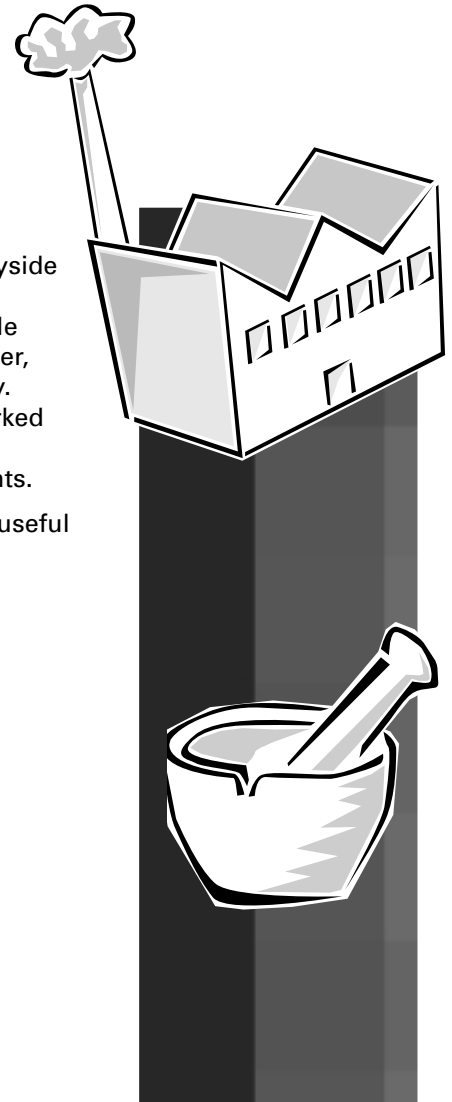
Paper 1 (2 hours)

The paper is divided into three sections:

Section A: You will answer one question from a choice of two on the core content;
Section B: You will answer one question from a choice of four on the core content;
Section C: You will answer one compulsory question, plus one question from a choice of two on the chosen Thematic Study.

Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes)

This paper has 5-7 compulsory questions set on a range of sources and is a detailed investigation of an historical issue taken from Public Health and Housing.



GCSE

