



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SOUTH AFRICA

## FORM 1 – UPPER 6 YEARLY OVERVIEW

### HISTORY

#### RATIONALE

History is the study of the past. This syllabus offers the opportunity to study world history from the nineteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Learners will explore history from a diversity of perspectives, including social, economical, cultural and political. Cambridge IGCSE History encourages learners to raise questions and to develop and deploy historical skills, knowledge and understanding in order to provide historical explanations.

Learners studying Cambridge IGCSE History are given the opportunity to:

- develop an interest in and enthusiasm for learning about and understanding the past
- explore historical concepts such as cause and consequence, change and continuity, and similarity and difference
- appreciate historical evidence and how to use it
- gain a greater understanding of international issues and inter-relationships
- learn how to present clear, logical arguments.



## **Cambridge AS and A Level History**

Cambridge International AS/A Level History is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of History. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills including:

- assessing different interpretations of an argument
- formulating their own ideas about a subject
- presenting clear and logical arguments
- evaluating historical evidence
- developing an understanding of historical concepts such as cause and effect, similarity and difference and continuity and change.

Cambridge International AS and A Level History is one of the most recognised qualifications around the world. It is accepted as proof of academic ability and of historical knowledge for entry to universities. Every year, thousands of students with Cambridge International AS and A Level History win places at good universities worldwide.



## OUTLINE OF FORM 1

### TERM 1

Students begin Form 1 by studying Archaeology and the origins of people, with an overview of the Early Stone Age to the Iron Age. They then learn about the !Kung and the San hunter-gatherers of Southern Africa, with interactive activities demonstrating their hand signals and hunting rituals. Throughout the units covered, students learn vocabulary and skills that are integral to understanding History, such as analysis of a source, reading maps and timelines and creating a bibliography.

### TERM 2

Students begin the term by learning about the arrival of the Khoi-Khoi in South Africa and their conflicts with the San people. They learn about the development of farming methods in South Africa and the origins of the Tswana people. They then examine the arrival of the Dutch settlers and its impact on indigenous peoples. Activities include the creation of an article and research projects.

### TERM 3

In their final term, Form 1 students learn about the various struggles over land in South Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. They learn about the Basotho people and the creation of Lesotho, as well as the movement of the Boers and birth of the Orange Free State. Finally, students examine the difficulties faced by today's !Kung and San people.



## OUTLINE OF FORM 2

### TERM 1

In Form 2, students switch their focus to Europe and America. They begin by learning about the French Revolution: how monarchy turned to anarchy because of the bitter resentment of the underprivileged classes. They examine the execution of Louis XVI and the establishment of the Directory.

### TERM 2

Students begin the term by learning about the rise and fall of Napoleon, 1794-1815. They learn about his assumption of power and his European wars, as well as the changes that took place in France under his rule. After covering Napoleon's defeat in the Battle of Waterloo, students study the Industrial Revolution and the colonisation of America.

### TERM 3

Students learn about the causes and events of the American Revolution, comparing and contrasting it with the French Revolution. They then learn about the slave trade in the Americas and how this impacted African people. Finally, they learn about the American Civil War, the abolition of slavery and the period of Reconstruction.



## OUTLINE OF FORM 3

### TERM 1

Students begin by learning about the causes of World War I: the system of alliances, build-up of arms and assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. They learn about what it was like for soldiers who fought in the trenches and begin to examine the peace treaties that followed the war.

### TERM 2

Students continue their exploration of the Paris Peace Conference, with special focus on the discussions of the 'Big Three', the leaders of Britain, France and the United States. They analyse the Treaty of Versailles and its effects on Germany and the international climate of the 1920s in general, asking themselves the overall question of, 'was it fair?' They learn about the formation of the League of Nations and begin to assess its peacekeeping work in the 1920s.

### TERM 3

Students resume their analysis of the League of Nations, examining its successes and failures throughout the 1920s and 1930s. They learn about the Great Depression and how it made the work of the League more difficult, while leading countries such as Japan, Italy and Germany to adopt more aggressive foreign policies. They assess the reasons for the eventual failure of the League of Nations and learn about the foreign policy of Germany under Adolf Hitler.



## OUTLINE OF FORM 4

### TERM 1

Students begin the year by delving into their depth study of Germany, 1918-1945. They learn about the economic, political and social effects of the Treaty of Versailles and the unstable years of the Weimar Republic. They also learn about the development of the Nazi Party and the rise of Hitler, ending the term with by analysing how he managed to gain power in 1933.

### TERM 2

Students continue their study of Germany, learning about Hitler's consolidation of power and his transition to dictatorship. They then learn in detail how the Nazis controlled Germany from 1933-1939, analysing such factors as propaganda, economic policy and the use of terror.

### TERM 3

Students embark on a study of German society under Nazi rule, focusing on various groups such as youth, industrial workers and women. They then learn about the impact of World War II on Germany, as well as the perpetration of the Holocaust.



## OUTLINE OF FORM 5

### TERM 1

Students begin their final year of IGCSE by learning about how the alliance between the Soviet Union and the United States began to break down, causing the Cold War. They analyse the factors that caused tension between the superpowers, such as nuclear rivalry and ideological division and begin to learn about the USA attempted to contain the spread of Communism. They also spend significant time practising the various exam techniques they will need for their final examinations.

### TERM 2

Students finish learning about the USA's containment of Communism, which is addressed through three case studies: the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. They then begin examining the Soviet Union's control of Eastern Europe, the construction of the Berlin Wall and the eventual collapse of the Soviet empire.

### TERM 3

Term Three is spent consolidating the information learned throughout the course and practising the skills necessary for the external Cambridge examinations.



## OUTLINE OF AS LEVEL

### TERM 1

The first topic the students cover is 'The search for international peace and security, 1919-45'. This includes a detailed focus on the League of Nations, as well as analysis of the origins of the United Nations. Central to their study of the topic is the development of source analysis skills. They learn about the origins of World War I and the Paris Peace Conference, which followed this catastrophic war. They assess how far they think the Treaty of Versailles was a fair settlement, and examine the various affects it had on international relations.

### TERM 2

Students learn in depth about attempts to improve international relations from 1919-29 while analysing the often-strained relations between the major powers. They cover the United States' return to isolationism and the Great Depression, and then begin learning about Mussolini's rise to power in Italy. After a close analysis of his foreign policy, they examine the Spanish Civil War, and the role that the various powers played. Finally, they learn about Hitler's foreign policy and the causes of World War II, examining the historical debate over Hitler's intentions.

### TERM 3

Students spend Term Three reviewing the content they have learned while practising the skills they need for the examination. A high level of analytical ability, both with historical sources and extended essays, will be honed in the final term.





## OUTLINE OF A LEVEL

### TERM 1

The focus of the year is Russian history from 1917-1945. Students begin by learning about the Bolshevik Revolution and Lenin's rise to power. They examine his various policies and his suppression of democracy, as well as the role of Trotsky in the Russian Civil War. They then learn about the death of Lenin and the power struggle that followed, with the eventual victory of Joseph Stalin.

### TERM 2

Students learn about Stalin's consolidation of power and the transition to a more extreme form of dictatorship. They learn about his drastic economic policies and the huge turmoil they created, as well as the purges, in which Stalin ordered the execution of millions of Russian people. Students then practise the skill of analysing historiography in the context of the beginning of the Cold War.

### TERM 3

Students spend Term Three reviewing the content they have learned while practising the skills they need for the examination. A high level of analytical ability, both with historical sources and extended essays, will be honed in the final term.