



PRE-A LEVEL HUMANITIES

HUMANITIES – adopting a wide scope to embrace areas of the Social Sciences.

Key Skills that are engaged: developing the ability to assess, analyse, evaluate; using topic knowledge in focused responses; developing supported judgements; creating meaningful extended writing; some work with a range of sources.

History:

If you are interested in people's lives and the forces that influence them, then History is the subject for you. Historians are, by definition, nosy! We like to peek into the past and find out what motivated people to behave the way they did. This subject will challenge you to make valid interpretations of past events and yet remain objective. Lessons will involve analysis of various sources, discussion and use of multimedia. We will focus on using sources critically, developing valuable skills of analysis and evaluation. Throughout the course we will look for opportunities to complement our classroom studies. This may well include visits to local sites as well as visits from local and University historians.

Geography:

There has never been a more important time to study Geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, destruction of environments and social breakdown, Geography is one of the most relevant courses that you could choose to study. Whatever your passion for the world – fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality – Geography will provide you with the knowledge and transferrable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally. Field trips are an important part of modern geography courses and during the GCSE course, field trips are organised to (eg) Malham Tarn and the North Norfolk coast explore different landscapes, themes and skills linked to the GCSE course.

COURSE CONTENT

The Pre-A Level History content comprises the following elements:

- a period study: The Cold War 1945-1991
- a thematic study: usually agreed between the teacher and students so to develop a project-based piece of writing.
- An introduction to A Level topics (eg Italian Unification, Russia under Tsars and Communist rulers)

The Pre-A Level Geography content is likely to comprise the following elements:

Topic 2: Development Dynamics

Topic 5: Climate Change

Topic 6: Geographical Investigation

Psychology:

Studying Social Sciences at Pre-A level provides you with the foundational knowledge to study Sociology and Psychology at A levels. There are three topics covered: Criminology, Identity and Relationships.

Criminology prepares students to study the core theoretical concepts for Approaches in Psychology and provides a basis for Crime and Deviance within Sociology A level year 2. Criminology explores the relationship between crime, society, and individuals. Students will explore various theories and perspectives to gain insight into the causes of crime, its statistics, the gender differences within crime, and the consequences of criminal actions.

Identity prepares students to study the topic 'Social Influence' in Psychology and provides a foundation for Culture and Identity within Sociology (an optional topic for A Level year 2). Identity explores concepts such as what, and who, influences our thoughts and behaviours, as well as looking at the most important psychological studies, such as Zimbardo and Milgram.

Relationships prepares students to study the topic 'Attachment' in Psychology and for Family and Households within Sociology (studied in A Level Year 1). Relationships covers topics such as how attachment develops, types of attachment, the impact of poor attachment, household structures, decision-making in the home, Divorce, and the Marxist perspectives on the family.

Beyond the topics, Pre-A level Social Sciences teaches students how to structure both short and long answer exam questions according to the same organisation seen at A level.

Sociology:

Pre- programme sociology looks at different approaches to viewing society, from Marxism to Feminists. Student could look at the impact that class, gender, culture, ethnicity, have on people and society.

Some units to study could be:

- **Crime and Deviance**
- **Education**
- **Social Stratification**
- **Research Methods**

This will enable students to have an overview of sociology, and learning some of the content and preparing academic skills without reteaching the A 'level as different points and topics will/could be covered.

One main assessment at the end of each module which could equate to a GCSE grade.

ASSESSMENT

There is no final public exam as this course has elements of the 1st year of the GCSE/A Level subjects but the course is continually assessed through end of topic questions set to GCSE standard as well as a Progression Exam in April 2025.