

ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM

# HISTORY

BRIDGING UNIT



**History isn't a subject that's stuck in the past. Far from it. Historical events have shaped society into what it is today.**

History helps you to understand the value and significance of world events in the past. In the process you'll gain a deeper understanding of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. Knowing how people lived in the past helps us to understand why people act as they do today.

The aim of A-level History is to study the past from both a contemporary and modern historiographical perspective. You will therefore need to familiarise yourself with our A Level units, which are as follows:

- **Unit 1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603** (worth 40% of your A-level)

In Year 12, you will study the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII, focusing on the development and consolidation of royal authority. This includes an examination of the Crown's relationship with the nobility, the effectiveness of domestic and foreign policy, and the challenges surrounding the succession. You will also analyse the causes and consequences of religious change, particularly under Henry VIII, and consider how these developments impacted stability and governance.

In Year 13, you will study the reigns of Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I, with a focus on the causes and significance of rebellion, as well as the nature and extent of religious change and settlement across the period. You will also explore the aims and outcomes of foreign policy, alongside the various political, religious, and dynastic challenges faced by the Tudor monarchy in maintaining authority.

- **Unit 2R The Cold War, c1945–1991** (worth 40% of your A-level)

In Y12 you will study the origins and development of the Cold War from 1945 to the late 1960s. This will include analysis of the breakdown of the Grand Alliance and the emergence of superpower rivalry, as well as key crises such as the Berlin Blockade, the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. You will examine the development of tensions in both Europe and Asia, alongside the role of ideology, leadership and mutual suspicion in shaping relations between the USA and the USSR.

In Year 13, you will study the later Cold War period from the 1960s to 1991. This will focus on the policy and impact of détente, as well as its eventual collapse and the return to heightened tension in the late 1970s and 1980s. You will analyse the role of key leaders, particularly Reagan and Gorbachev, and assess the significance of arms control agreements and ideological change. The course will conclude with an examination of the causes of the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

- **Historical Investigation: Industrialisation of Russia 1855-1941** (worth 20% of your A-level)

This is an essay with a predetermined title and maximum word count of 4500 completed over the summer between Y12-13 and submitted during the Autumn term of Y13. It combines the various assessment objectives found in units 1 & 2 to test your ability to analyse and evaluate both contemporary and secondary interpretations as well as write a coherent and comprehensive academic argument.



In order to prepare yourself for the beginning of the course it is advisable to familiarise yourself with the specification, found [here](#), and both **Tudor England** and the **Cold War** periods. You will be provided with a full reading list in September, but either of the following texts greatly assist the study of this course:

- My Revision Notes: AQA AS/A-level History: The Cold War, c1945-1991, ISBN: **9781471876318**
- My Revision Notes: AQA AS/A-level History: The Tudors: England, 1485-1603, ISBN: **9781471876103**

**Our exam board – AQA – recommends the following study books to accompany the course:**

- **EITHER** AS/A-level History for AQA: The Tudors: England, 1485–1603 (CUP) ISBN: **9781316504321**
- **OR** Oxford A-level History for AQA: The Tudors: England 1485-1603 (OUP) ISBN: **9780198354604**
- **AND** Oxford A-level History for AQA: The Cold War c1945-1991 (OUP) ISBN: **9780198354611**

Further details from AQA can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/a-level/history-7042/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

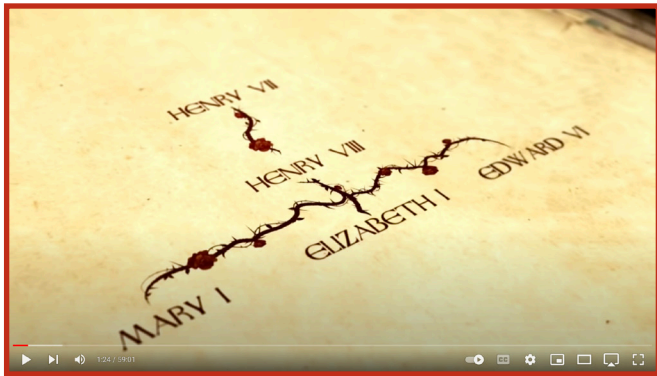
# History

## Preparation Tasks

At least one, preferably both (1 side of A4 minimum):

- What threats (both internal and external) were faced by Henry VII on gaining the throne in 1485?
- What conflicting ideologies (and therefore tensions) were present at the Yalta Conference in 1945?

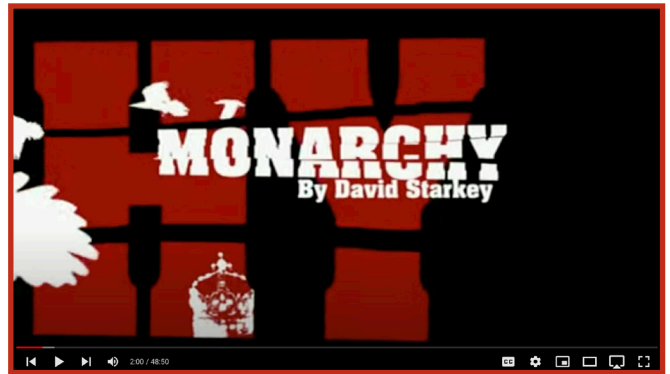
## Try the following links for further study



Henry VII: The Winter King

<https://youtu.be/aBpSRQ6wVPU>

The Winter King by Thomas Penn



Monarchy

<https://youtu.be/ph7PhP4Qr-M?list=PLd8OQ6-KwPrZ5QX8C7NxJdtzxmVM0VVpW>

Monarchy by David Starkey



The Cold War

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3H6z037pboGWTxs3xGP7HRGrQ5dOQdGc>

The Cold War – BBC/CNN Documentary Playlist.

## Contact us

If you have any questions please feel free to email the Head of History & Classical Civilisation at [j.waller@st-christophers.org](mailto:j.waller@st-christophers.org)



# History

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**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,  
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

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🌐 [www.st-christophers.org/sixth-form](http://www.st-christophers.org/sixth-form)

