

# HISTORY

## Subject Group: Humanities

These subjects explore the ways in which humans live and communicate in the world. Human life is examined by looking at our past, our present and into our future. These subjects help people to express themselves clearly and develop their reasoning ability.

### What is History?

History is the academic discipline that seeks to reconstruct and interpret the human past. It seeks to explain both how and why significant events occurred. It is often studied out of personal interest, but it also develops important skills such as problem solving and critical thinking which are of life-long importance.

It is crucial when studying history to pay attention to the evidence presented, and be alert to the presence of bias and propaganda. Students are encouraged to consider the merits of different interpretations of the evidence in order to teach a more balanced and grounded conclusions.

The course is quite large and requires constant attention throughout the year. Research skills such as drawing on a wide variety of sources of evidence (such as maps, public records, political cartoons, and memoirs) are developed throughout the course. When writing, students are taught to produce clear, comprehensive and coherent arguments. .

*Note that Leaving Cert History is completely different from the Junior Cert course!*

### What kind of student might History suit?

- Students who enjoy and appreciate history, and would like to deepen their knowledge of it.
- Students who are willing to commit the necessary time; History is a demanding subject.
- Students who have strong English language skills, and are able to write coherent essays.
- Students aiming to improve their research skills and develop their capacity to analyse, deduce and problem solve.

### Career Possibilities

History develops an ability to think independently and employers tend to look for people who are broad-minded, clear thinking and independent people. History can be an excellent preparation for careers in journalism, the legal profession the Arts, tourism, government and teaching.

### Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

### Recommendation

When considering history as a Leaving Certificate subject students should note the following:

- An interest in the subject is vital; some students choose it on the basis that they like nothing else on the Subject Line.
- A good knowledge of English, an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is important.
- Self-discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general.
- Choosing it on the basis that it was an easy subject for the Junior Certificate has absolutely no basis of truth, they are two completely separate courses. Leaving Certificate history is demanding and some students find out too late to their cost that they cannot cope and drop out.
- If history is a subject that you like and you have the ability, discipline and work ethic to do well in it, but is not related to the course you want to pursue at Third Level, you could consider doing it on the basis that it will get you the required points to get the Third Level course that you want.