

# History

**Subject Group: Humanities.**

These subjects explore the ways in which humans live and communicate in the world. Through the study of history students gain an insight into other ways of life and other ways of thinking.



## What is History?

History aims to record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred. It deals with human experience and it is often studied out of personal interest, but also develops important skills such as self-discipline and critical thinking which are of life-long importance.

It is crucial when studying history to pay attention to the evidence presented, and to keep in mind factors such as bias and propaganda. Students are encouraged to consider the validity of different interpretations of evidence to develop a more balanced and grounded judgement.

The study of history gives students a unique potential to develop skills of critical thinking. Students are encouraged to develop an appreciation for the society in which they live.

## What kind of student might History suit?

Students who enjoy and appreciate history, and would like to improve their knowledge.

Students who have an interest in current affairs and the political world.

Students aiming to improve their self-discipline and research skills.

## Career Possibilities

History develops an ability to think independently and employers tend to look for people who are open-minded, independent people. History is excellent for careers in journalism, law, the Arts, tourism, government, politics, teaching and tourism.

## Subject Content:

The Leaving Cert History course was recently revised and is divided into two distinct fields of study; Early Modern (1492-1915) and Late Modern (1815-1993). Each field is further divided into six Irish topics and six European topics. Students study two topics from Irish and two from European topics.

Assessment consists of two components: A written examination paper (80%) and a research study report (20%)

### **Recommendations.**

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

An interest in the subject is vital;

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 should consider doing it on the basis that it will get you the required points to get the Third Level course that you want.