

# History

Examination board: AQA

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*The Execution of Charles I of England, 1649*

## Content

### Component 1: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702

What prompted the English people to execute their own monarch? How did a country farmer become the most important man in Britain and arguably one of the greatest leaders of all time? What factors led a Dutchman to be invited to sit on the British throne? If you are interested in these sorts of questions, then this course will provide you with the answers, as well as enabling you to develop your knowledge of a crucial and often overlooked period in British History: a period that played a fundamental role in shaping modern-day politics and ideas about kingship and democracy.

### Assessment

Component 1 is a study of a significant period of around 100 years and focuses closely on evaluating the different interpretations which historians have adopted to explain the key events. There will thus be much scope for debate and discussion. It will be assessed by a terminal examination at the end of the two-year course (2½ hours). The exam accounts for 40% of the A Level and is divided into two parts: 'Absolutism challenged, 1603-1649' (Lower Sixth) and 'Monarchy restored and restrained, 1649-1702' (Upper Sixth).

### Component 2: France in Revolution, 1774-1815

Absolutism, Terror, Monarchy, Partisan Politics, Marie Antoinette, Napoleon, Empire, Guillotine: these are just a few of the people and concepts associated with the study of France during the Revolutionary period. All young people should have some awareness of this seismic period of change in European History. If you are interested in politics, society, international relations, war and conflict, and are keen on debating some of the important issues of the French Revolution (issues that are still very relevant to the contemporary world), then this course will be of great interest to you.

### Assessment

Component 2 is an in-depth study of a period of major historical development (over about 40 years) and its associated primary evidence. It will be assessed by a terminal examination at the end of the two-year course (2½ hours) and will include one compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period. The exam accounts for 40% of the A Level and is divided into two parts: 'The end of Absolutism and the French Revolution, 1774–1795' (Lower Sixth) and 'The rise of Napoleon and his impact on France and Europe, 1795–1815' (Upper Sixth).

### **Component 3: Historical Investigation (Personal Study)**

This is one of the most exciting areas of the course. It will allow pupils to research a topic of their own choice and submit an investigation of 3000-3500 words in length. The choice of research topic will be discussed with your teachers but can be from any period of history; pupils are free to focus on British, World or even Local History. This investigation will be marked by your teachers and moderated externally by AQA. It accounts for 20% of the A Level.