

# History A level

*at Malmesbury*

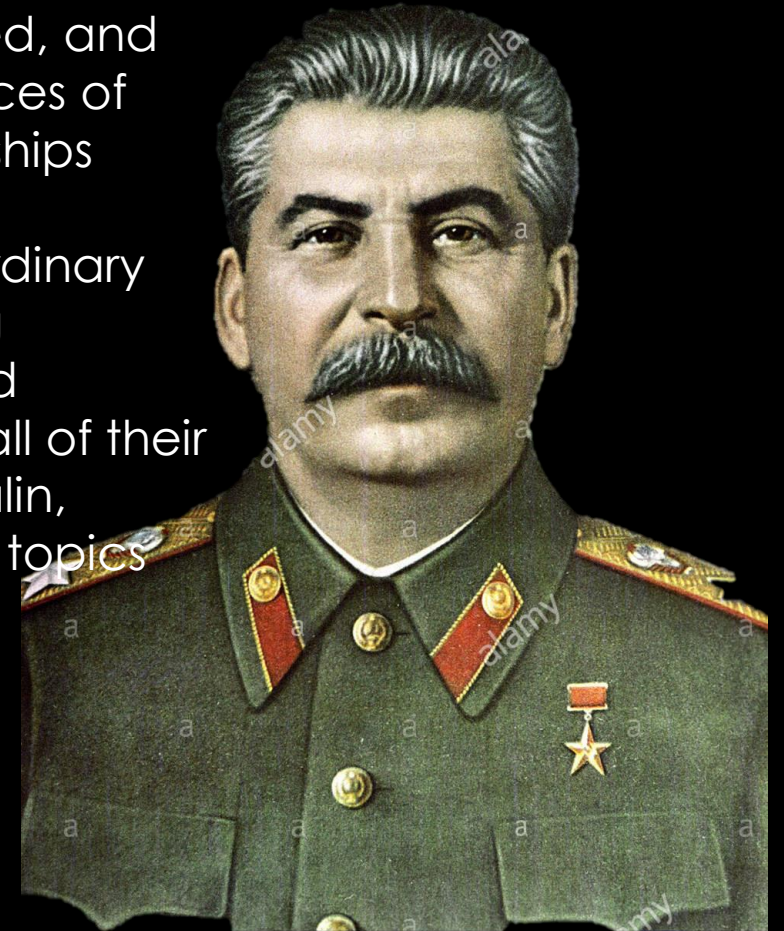
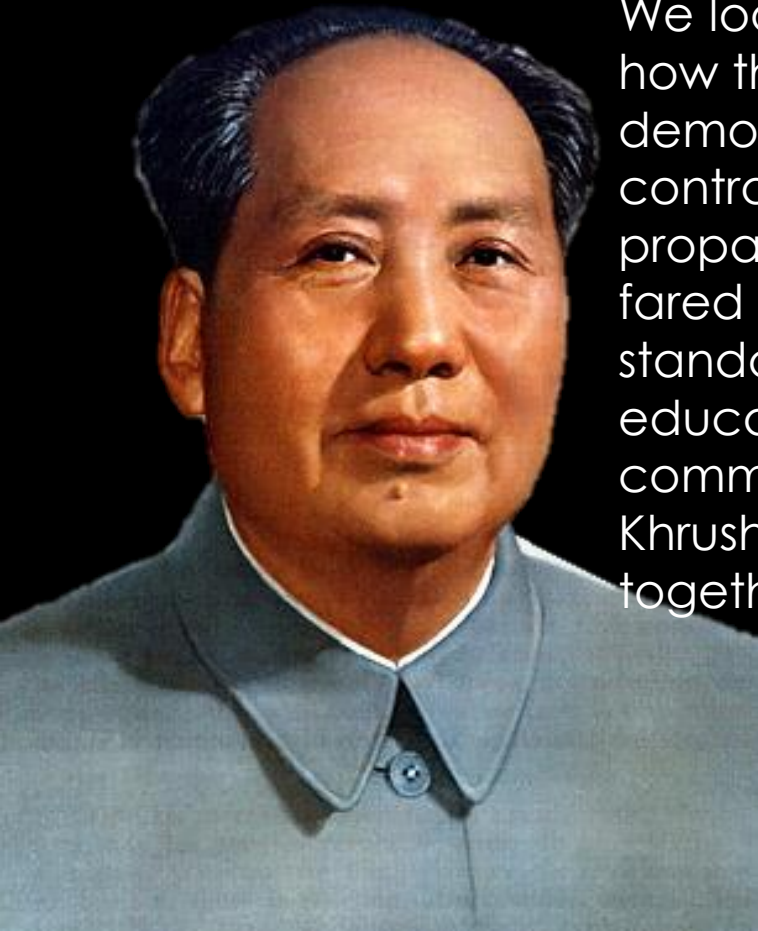
**You should consider history if you.....**

- Enjoy it at GCSE**
- Like finding out about major figures and events in history and the huge impact that they have on ordinary people who are just like us**
- Like discussing things and having an opinion**
- Want to be know more about why the world is the way that it is today and ideally, make it better by looking at the carnage of the past**
- Write really well and want to do it even better**
- Want to be able to think for yourself and cut through all the nonsense that some people say and write and find the stuff that is actually true.**

**In year 12, we focus on 2 countries, China and the Soviet Union. Both of them had communist revolutions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and had communist dictators and we look at how that communist experiment worked out for them.....\***

We look at how communist governments worked, and how they kept their power and removed all traces of democracy. We will look at how these dictatorships control their own people through secret police, propaganda and terror. We also look at how ordinary fared under this type of rule, so we look at living standards, the status of women, healthcare and education. For the Russia topic you will look at all of their communist leaders, beginning with Lenin, to Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev and Gorbachev. These 2 topics together will contribute 50% of the total A level

**(\*ANSWER: Famine, suffering, misery, control, repression, secret police, labour camps, indoctrination, that type of thing!!!)**



In year 13 we do coursework which you choose from a list of 6 options which include the Salem witch trials of 1698 and the violence that surrounded the partition of India in 1947. You will produce a 4000 word essay which looks at your chosen issue and the reason why historians disagree over this issue and have a different view of it compared to others. This will give you another 20% of your final A level.

Then we do our final topic, Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry Tudor. Find out about what made a successful late medieval king...by being completely different to most of the kings that we had during this time! We are talking Wars of the Roses, disappearance of the princes in the tower, brothers murdering brothers, that type of thing!

We will look at Richard II being deposed as a tyrannical king by the much more popular and likeable Henry V. We look at the successes of Henry V in France with the battle of Agincourt and look at the collapse of the dynasty under the disastrous rule of his incompetent son, Henry VI. Then we are on to our Yorkist kings, how on the surface they are intelligent and competent, but behind the scenes they are weakened by internal factions and rivalries that destroy them. Finally we look at the successful foundation of the Tudor dynasty under Henry VII .



If you want to know more about History  
A level at Malmesbury, look at the  
handout here and /or speak to your  
teacher.



## History at Malmesbury



We follow the **edexcel** specification for History and our 4 topics are as follows

In year 12

- From Lenin to Yeltsin, the USSR from 1917 to 1991: 30% of final A level
- Mao's China; 1949-76: 20%

Both of these topics look at the reality of communism in these 2 countries, it's not pretty to be honest! You will see how the promise of equality and freedom got completely corrupted into a nightmare of control, abuse and the leaders' wish to hold on to power no matter what the cost. We look at the impact of this on all aspects of life, the economy and on ordinary people and even on things like culture and the young. For the Russia topic you will also look at how communism unravelled spectacularly in the early 1990s and how the great Soviet Union collapsed like a giant soufflé.

In year 13

- Coursework, you get to decide what it is on from a list of 6 options. It is all about how historians disagree with each other on the same event, so really good for making you realise that history is what people say it is, and not necessarily the actual truth! 20% of final A level



- The Yorkists, Lancastrians and Henry Tudor, from 1399 to 1509. This is our oldest topic, obviously, and even though it will appear strange to begin with after so much 20<sup>th</sup> century history you will soon realise that people are people no matter what time

they are in living in and it is just the same issues of power, corruption, selfishness and in-fighting and all the other problems that stop humanity from being