

Junior Cert History

History in the CBS

History is a core subject in the CBS. For Junior Cert, History is taught in three class periods per week. See below for content taught in each year of junior Cert.

Subject Aims:

- a) Develop the skills of History – to develop a range of research skills essential for study of History. To realise there are different interpretations of different historical issues. To develop an appreciation of the nature and variety of historical evidence.
- b) Knowledge and understanding – to develop knowledge and understanding of human activity in the past. To realise the past is different, they did things differently. To learn Irish, European and World History.
- c) Preparation for life and citizenship – to develop the ability to think critically, to develop positive values associated with the study of History. To develop in students an appreciation of the society in which they live and of other societies, past and present.

Subject Objectives:

Students should acquire knowledge and understanding of:

- Elements of each topic
- Actions and experience of previous generations
- How elements of Irish society fit into a broader context
- Human activity in the past
- Ability to apply a) procedural, b) interpretative and c) substantive concepts
 - a) Source and evidence, fact and opinion, bias
 - b) Change and continuity, cause and consequence, comparison and contrast
 - c) Power and authority, conflict and reconciliation, democracy and human rights, culture and civilisation, economy and society, identity and community, space and time.

Content to be covered in each Year of History Programme:

Year 1:

- * Finding out about the past – Historians, sources, Archaeology.
- * Ancient Ireland – Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age/Celts.
- * Ancient Rome – Life of a servant, slave, craftsperson, soldier and child.

- * Middle Ages – Castle, Church and City i.e. knights, monks, serfs, craftsperson.
- * Renaissance – Painter (Leonardo), Sculptor (Michelangelo), Architect (Brunelleschi), Outside of Italy (Durer).

Field Trips – Heritage Park, Kilkenny Castle (Summer Term)

Year 2:

- * Exploration – Emphasis on Columbus but also mention Magellan and Conquistadors.
- * Reformation – Emphasis on Luther, but also mention Calvin and Counter Reformation.
- * Plantation – Special study of Ulster Plantation with Laois/Offaly and Munster also mentioned.
- * Revolutions – Wolfe Tone and Washington done in detail. Robespierre also mentioned.
- * From Farm to Factory – Transport, Agricultural and Industrial Revolution

Field Trips – 1798 Interpretive Centre, Dunbrody Famine Ship, Wicklow Gaol, Johnstown Agricultural Museum. All after March when they re-open for the season.

Year 3:

- * Political Developments in Ireland 1900-1922.
- * New State, 1922-1985
- * Northern Ireland, 1920-1985
- * 1st Year Revision Test – week beginning 19th October.
- * Social Change in 20th Century Ireland: Rural and Urban life, Rural and Urban work, Transport and Communication.
- * 2nd Year Revision Test – week beginning 7th December.
- * International Relations in 20th Century
- * African/Asian Nationalism

An example of JUNIOR CERT People in History Questions

A named leader of a voyage of discovery.

Be careful not to give too much background information.

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa in 1451. He was an experienced sailor who had visited many countries (including Ireland). He believed that by sailing westwards from Europe he could reach Asia. The king of Portugal refused to sponsor his voyage but after a long delay King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to finance his voyage. Hoped that this voyage might provide Spain with great riches, an empire, and converts to Christianity. He set sail on the 3rd of August 1492 with three ships, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria (his flagship).

Many of the crew believed that the world was flat and if they sailed too far out to sea, they would fall off the edge. Land was sighted on the 11th October. Columbus landed on an island which he named San Salvador (Watling Island today). Because he thought he had reached Asia, he named the native people Indians. However he had in fact discovered islands off an unknown continent, which later became known as America. He discovered more islands including Haiti and Cuba.

When he returned to Spain, he received a hero's welcome although he had only brought home six Indians and a small amount of gold. As a reward for his services Ferdinand and Isabella made him Governor General of the lands he discovered. He sailed on 3 further voyages, in all, during which he discovered Trinidad, Jamaica, Panama and the mouth of the Orinoco River in South America.

He had discovered a "New World" and this inspired many later explorers to sail westwards. He is remembered today as one of the greatest explorers of all time. The "New World" was named America after another Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.