

GCSE History: AQA 8145.

What is AQA GCSE History?

GCSE History will allow you to study a range of historical themes, events and time periods. You will gain an empowering grasp of the world around you and how it has been created. You will study the History of Britain from the 12th century right up until the 21st century as well as key eras of Modern World History, giving you a confident understanding of the past and how it affects you today.

Topics of study include: the causes of the Second World War, Germany from before World War One up to the Nazi regime, Elizabethan England and Power and the People (a study of Britain's path to democracy). This gives students a breadth, as well as a depth, of understanding to prepare better for any future studies in History and to provide 'something for everyone' in terms of content. Enrichment is a major part of the subject and a site visit is usually an integral feature of the Elizabethan topic. Other visits will also be included wherever possible.

What are the aims and outcomes of the course?

The course gives you a number of transferable skills that are highly valued by employers, colleges and universities alike. The assessment objectives are as follows:

AO1: requires students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied.

AO2: requires students to explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using historical concepts such as causation, consequence, significance and similarity.

AO3: requires students to analyse, evaluate and use sources (contemporary to the period) to make judgements, in the context of historical events studied.

AO4: requires students to analyse, evaluate and make judgements about interpretations (including how and why interpretations may differ) in the context of historical events studied

All pupils have already started to develop these skills at Key Stage 3.

What topics will I cover?

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

- **Conflict and Tension 1918- 1939:** This unit covers events from the end of the First World War to the outbreak of the Second World War. You will learn about the attempts to create a lasting peace, and the work of the League of Nations to ensure this. You will learn how this peace was threatened in the 1930s with a series of international crises and the emergence of threats to world peace, such as Hitler and Mussolini.
- **Germany 1890-1945:** This unit covers the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm II and the issues he faced in ruling the newly-formed Germany. You will then learn the problems facing Germany after losing World War One, how the Weimar Republic dealt with these problems, and the subsequent rise of the Nazi party. The course then covers life in Nazi Germany, before and during the Second World War.

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation.

- **Britain: Power and the People c1170- Present Day:** This unit starts with the Feudal System which was the system of government in the Middle Ages and shows how rights have changed over time up to the democratic system of government we have today. You will learn about how each section of society gradually gained more rights through four time periods. For Medieval England you will learn about the Magna Carta, the Barons' Wars fought by Simon de Montfort and the Peasants' Revolt. For the Early Modern Era we learn about the Pilgrimage of Grace, the English Revolution and the American Revolution. For the 19th Century we study changes to voting rights, social reforms and workers' rights. Finally, focusing on the 20th century, we study women's rights, the further development of workers' rights and, bringing us right up to the present day, minority rights.
- **Elizabethan England 1558-1603:** This unit covers the issues facing Elizabeth as a female ruler and how she overcame these. We also study life in Elizabethan times for both the rich and the poor. You will then learn about the particular threats to Elizabeth and England, partially caused by religious differences, both at home and abroad. Finally, we learn how a historical site can be used to symbolise the social changes across the Elizabeth period.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through four written exam elements of equal weighting . Each paper is worth 40 marks for content, with additional SPAG marks for Conflict and Power. These examinations are worth **100%** of the total mark (there is no coursework component).

Paper 1 topics: Two hours (50%)

One hour each on the Conflict unit and the Germany unit.

Paper 2 topics: Two hours (50%)

One hour each on the Power unit and the Elizabeth unit.

How can I support my studies at home?

As with other subjects, your teachers will provide knowledge organisers for each part of the course. The department has also compiled a Pupil Virtual Library for each element of the course which contains teacher-made podcasts, textbooks and links to a variety of further resources such as articles, videos and external podcasts. We also provide a GCSE Preparation Pack, with past-papers and technique tips for every question on the different papers, ensuring that every pupil is fully prepared for the examination. In addition to this, we make use of other online resources such as Quizizz, Seneca and GCSE Pod.

What can I do afterwards with a History qualification?

History is well-regarded academically and is one of the Ebacc subjects which pupils are now required to study.

History can be taken to A level at all of the local colleges, and traditionally has a high take-up rate. A GCSE in History also prepares students who want to take A levels in Politics, Classical Civilisations, Sociology, Law and Economics. Universities always value a qualification in History, regardless of your chosen course, due to its academic rigour.

A qualification in History can lead to careers in every sector due to its wide-ranging relevance. Examples are teaching, the armed forces, law, government, public service, the health service, journalism, heritage, film, design and business. There is no limit to how far you can go with a qualification in History- four modern UK Prime Ministers have even graduated in History.