

# A Level History A

**Through this specification learners develop expertise in historical skills and acquire knowledge and understanding through the ability to study a wide range of topics in British, European, American and World History from the medieval period through to the late twentieth century.**



## Benefits to you and your learners

- The ethos and strengths of OCR's previous specification have been maintained in a new four unit (two at AS level, two at A2) format.
- New areas in the specification which makes it possible to construct more coherent courses. For example, at AS, there are new Enquiries (document studies papers) on Gladstone and Disraeli, Churchill, Dictatorship and Democracy in Germany 1933-63, and the Cold War in Asia; and new period studies on China and the Middle East; providing exciting new opportunities to study 20th Century history. Equally, it is still possible to study an entirely medieval course, and there are, for example, new options at A2 on Justinian and Alfred.
- The new style of coursework, which separates the unit into two, separately assessed tasks (interpretations and investigations) and so makes the coursework unit more accessible to learners and easier for teachers to deliver.
- For the **interpretations** element of the coursework, learners from one centre can all analyse the same set of passages or sources, using tasks set by OCR on a wide range of topics.
- Plenty of coursework materials are provided for teachers. This will include suggested essay titles for the **investigations** element, with bibliographies of books in print, plus useful websites.
- While the study of British History comprises a substantial element, learners will study the history of more than one country or state.

## AS Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
<b>Mandatory</b> (if choosing this unit, learners take the European and World Enquiries option)	<b>F961: British History Period Studies</b> Learners have a choice of a wide range of subjects from the Anglo-Saxons up to Post-War Britain in two components (1035 - 1642, and 1783 - 1994) including the transition to Norman England, Church and State in the 16th century, and the origins of the English Civil War, from Pitt to Peel, Foreign and Imperial Policies 1856 -1914 and Britain from 1951 - 1994.	<b>1 hour 30 min exam</b> <b>AS Level – 50%</b> <b>A Level – 25%</b>
<b>Mandatory</b> (if choosing this unit, learners take the British Enquiries option)	<b>F962: European and World History Period Studies</b> The unit offers topics in two components; Medieval and Early Modern 1095 – 1609, exploring themes such as the Crusades, the Renaissance and Spain in the 16th and 17th centuries, and Modern European and World History from 1795 -2003 including Napoleon, the USA in the 19th century, the Rise of China in the 20th century and the Crisis in the Middle East since 1948.	<b>1 hour 30 min exam</b> <b>AS Level – 50%</b> <b>A Level – 25%</b>
<b>Mandatory</b> (if European and World History Period Studies is chosen)	<b>F963: British History Enquiries</b> This unit offers documentary and some passage study on seven options (including for example the Normans, The Mid-Tudor Crises, or Churchill).  Learners should study how to interpret and evaluate source material, to compare sources as evidence and arrive at a judgment, and to assess an historical interpretation through the combined use of different sources, passages and their own knowledge.	<b>1 hour 30 min exam</b> <b>AS Level – 50%</b> <b>A Level – 25%</b>
<b>Mandatory</b> (if British History Period Studies is chosen)	<b>F964: European and World History Enquiries</b> This unit offers documentary and some passage study on seven options (including for example the Crusades, the Reformation in Germany, the French Revolution and Dictatorship and Democracy in Germany 1933-1963).  Learners should study how to interpret and evaluate source material, to compare sources as evidence and arrive at a judgment, and to assess an historical interpretation through the combined use of different sources, passages and their own knowledge.	<b>1 hour 30 min exam</b> <b>AS Level – 50%</b> <b>A Level – 25%</b>

Learners must either take F961 and F964, or F962 and F963.

## A2 Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>F965: Historical Interpretations and Investigations</b> Internally assessed and externally moderated coursework.  Learners will produce 2 x 2000 word essays: a task based on interpretations in passages set by OCR and an individual investigation.	<b>Coursework</b> <b>A Level – 20%</b>
<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>F966: Historical Themes</b> A choice of 12 key themes covering a period of at least 100 years. Learners will demonstrate synoptic skills by drawing together appropriate techniques, knowledge and understanding to evaluate developments over the whole of the period. There is an emphasis on patterns of change and continuity.	<b>2 hour exam</b> <b>A Level – 30%</b>

## Support and training

We have developed a range of support materials and resources – some have been produced by OCR, some by our publisher partners. These include:

- INSET Training (full day course)
- Sample Assessment Materials
- Schemes of Work and Lesson Plans
- Coursework Guidance
- Teacher's Handbook
- Resource Lists
- The Coursework Consultancy Service is a new email based service, managed by our experienced Consultants who can provide guidance on A Level History coursework.

- Publisher Resources – developed in close consultation with OCR, Heinemann has produced further resources to support this specification.



For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit [www.ocr.org.uk/history](http://www.ocr.org.uk/history)

Download the specification and available support materials at [www.ocr.org.uk/history/a/level](http://www.ocr.org.uk/history/a/level)