

# A Level History B

**By shifting the emphasis of GCE History firmly to the “why” and “how”, alongside the more traditional “what”, of the historian’s work, this brand new specification represents a distinct and exciting development in the study of history at AS/A level.**

It provides clear continuity from GCSE, and at the same time sound preparation for higher education. Exciting and innovative historical topics have been chosen, through which learners study four crucial aspects of the subject: theories of explanation and the uses and limitations of source materials at AS, and of interpretations and of historical significance at A2.



## Benefits to you and your learners

- Provides a new and sophisticated set of objectives, based on up-to-date consultation allowing learners to engage with current debates.
- Linked to GCSE History and to approaches to History at Higher Education level.
- Well-designed and structured specifications based on four distinct, clearly-focussed units delivering overall progression.
- Three of the four units are externally assessed.
- Learners are well prepared for the study of History after school.
- Exciting and emotive content which will appeal to you and engage your learners.

## AS Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
<b>Mandatory</b>	<p><b>F981: Historical Explanation - British History</b>  <b>F982: Historical Explanation - Non British History</b></p> <p>Learners will explore the theory and practice of explanation - of ideas, actions and events - located in topics spanning 20-40 years (British and non-British topic available).</p> <p>Options include the Reign of Elizabeth I, 1558-1603, and Russia in Turmoil 1900-1921.</p>	<p><b>1 hour 30 min exam</b>  <b>AS Level – 50%</b>  <b>A Level – 25%</b></p>
<b>Mandatory</b>	<p><b>F983: Historical Evidence - British History</b>  <b>F984: Historical Evidence - Non British History</b></p> <p>This unit considers the issues surrounding the use of evidence.</p> <p>Learners will study a topic of approximately 100 years in duration - from a choice of British and non-British options - and in examination will use sources to test an hypothesis.</p> <p>Options include the Black Death in England up to 1450, and Race and American Society 1865-1970s.</p>	<p><b>1 hour 30 min exam</b>  <b>AS – 50%</b>  <b>A Level – 25%</b></p>

## A2 Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
<b>Mandatory</b>	<p><b>F985: Historical Controversies - British History</b>  <b>F986: Historical Controversies - Non British History</b></p> <p>Building on earlier units, learners study how and why historians disagree about the past - exploring how different methodologies lead to different interpretations. Learners will then consider different approaches to their chosen topics.</p> <p>Options include: Different interpretations of British Imperialism 1850-1950; Different American Wests 1840-1900; Debates about the Holocaust.</p>	<p><b>3 hour assessed task</b>  <b>A Level – 30%</b></p>
<b>Mandatory</b>	<p><b>F987: Historical Significance</b></p> <p>In this final unit, learners examine the vocabulary of significance and the different means of measuring significance. Learners prepare an individual study (of up to 3000 words) backed by a research diary to demonstrate their understanding and methods.</p>	<p><b>Coursework</b>  <b>A Level – 20%</b></p>

Learners must complete 4 units; either F981 or F982, F983 or F984, F985 or F986 and F987. Rules of combination apply, please see specification for further details.

## 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/historyb/alevel](http://www.ocr.org.uk/historyb/alevel)