

A student's guide to the GCSE in

HISTORY B – MODERN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL HISTORY



What is GCSE History all about?

- History GCSE follows on naturally from the kind of work you have undertaken at Key Stage 3 (Year 9). Your course will involve a study of British social, economic and political history starting in the mid eighteenth century and ending in the 1990s. You may also study units of local history or European and world history, which will be the basis of your coursework.
- You will have the opportunity to examine historical source material and develop your own knowledge of historical issues.

Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that involves learning about and discussing the events that have shaped today's society. You might find yourself learning about such topics as health, education, employment or race relations. If you like putting forward a well-developed point of view, then you will enjoy History.

What about exams?

You will take two papers on different topics. Paper one will ask you to answer questions from your own knowledge of two outline topics you have studied. Paper two covers two topics you have studied in depth. For this paper you will be asked to examine historical source material in a variety of forms such as photographs, cartoons, advertisements and extracts from newspapers and speeches.

What about coursework?

Coursework is worth 25% of the marks and will be based on:

- either modern British social or economic history such as the effect of a world war on a local community
- or European or world history focusing on one country such as the USA, Germany or Russia
- or a world study such as Decolonisation or Superpower rivalry .

You will complete two different coursework assignments, one of which will ask you to respond to some historical documents, the other will test your historical knowledge.

What other skills might I develop?

As well as learning about History, the course will enable you to improve your skills in Communication, IT, Working with Others, Improving own Learning and Performance and Problem Solving. Studying History encourages you to produce well-reasoned arguments based on the evaluation of evidence.

What could I do next with GCSE History?

There are many things you can do with a GCSE in History. You could choose to continue with the study of History by taking AS History in the sixth form or at college or you could use your knowledge of history to support other AS courses such as English Literature or Art. A GCSE in History shows that you have a high level of literacy and that you are able to analyse complex information. These skills are highly valued by colleges and employers.

Employment opportunities where skills gained through the study of history are particularly valued include journalism, media, law, teaching and human resources.