

4 April 2008

Dear Head of History

**Important update to OCR GCSE History A Short Course: Schools History Project – 1035**

As you currently deliver the OCR GCSE History A Short Course specification I would like to make you aware of an important update.

After careful consideration we have made the decision to withdraw the current OCR GCSE History A Short Course specification following the June 2010 examinations. All of the content of History A short course will be available in our new History A full course specification for first teaching from September 2009. Alternatively you may wish to consider the new History B (Modern World) Short Course which contains the International Relations Core. The core is in three parts and candidates can study any one part. Please visit [www.ocr.org.uk/historyb/newgcse](http://www.ocr.org.uk/historyb/newgcse) for further details.

In order to make these changes as easy for you as we can, we've compared the content of the History A specification to our reinvigorated and updated full course History A (Schools History Project) and History B (Modern World) specifications. This should help you to choose the specification which is most suited to your students' needs.

The last examination session for History A short course will be in June 2010. This will not affect the two-year GCSE course which you will start teaching from September 2008 for examination in June 2010. If you teach the course in one year, you will still be able to start teaching in September 2009 for examination in June 2010. It is important to note that it will not be possible to carry forward coursework marks for the History A specification beyond June 2010, nor will candidates be able to resit any component in June 2011.

Our new draft proposals for the History A and History B specifications are now available on our website [www.ocr.org.uk/history](http://www.ocr.org.uk/history). If you have any further questions about your options having looked at the new History A and History B specifications, please call OCR on 01223 553998.

Thank you for choosing to teach the OCR History A Short Course specification. I am confident that by transferring to our new History A or B specification you will find this significantly improves the experience of OCR History for teachers and candidates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Miles', is positioned above the typed name.

Alison Miles  
Qualifications Group Manager

**GCSE Short Course History A (School's History Project) 1035 – Coverage of topics in new GCSE specifications**

Topic currently found in History A Short Course	Available in new History A Full course	Available in new History B Full course	Available in new History B Short course
Study in development A: <i>Medicine Through Time</i>	Yes Unit A951: <i>Study in Development</i> – Medicine through Time	No	No
Study in development B: <i>Crime and Punishment Through Time</i>	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit A951: <i>Study in Development</i> – Crime and Punishment Through Time</li> <li>• Unit A952: <i>Historical Source Investigation</i> - Crime and Punishment Through Time</li> </ul>	No	No
Modern World Study	Yes Unit A953: <i>History Around Us and Modern World History Controlled Assessment</i> – Modern World Study	Possible within Unit A973 <i>Controlled Assessment</i> – A Modern World Study	Possible within Unit A973 <i>Controlled Assessment</i> – A Modern World Study