



History

GCSE HISTORY 2012



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Our GCSE History A specification builds on the success and popularity of the SHP (Schools History Project) approach.

Benefits that our GCSE History A specification offers you and your learners are:

- A varied approach to teaching and learning History, including in-depth study of a specific period
- An opportunity to study a historical site in your local area – to help learners become actively involved in history on their doorstep
- Easier progress to A Level History – our A Level History B specification follows similar patterns to the GCSE History A course, and builds on the analytical way of thinking that learners develop at GCSE level
- A qualification supported by resources from publisher partners giving teachers a wide range of interesting ways to teach GCSE History
- And provide source materials for exam questions in full colour, making it easier for learners to understand and answer them.



HISTORY A

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
<p>Unit A951: Study in Development and Study in Depth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Learners will be expected to demonstrate their ability to describe and explain historical change and cause, and analyse different features of historical situations.	<p>Written examination 2 hours 81 marks</p>	<p>45%</p>
<p>Unit A952: Historical Source Investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This paper is based on a coherent element of approximately 200 years of British history set out in the specification content and will be based around a historical issue taken from that content.	<p>Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes 53 marks</p>	<p>30%</p>
<p>Unit A953: History Around Us OR Modern World History</p>	<p>Controlled assessment Controlled assessment task set by OCR in no more than 2,000 words 50 marks</p>	<p>25%</p>

Please note that the total marks for Units A951 and A952 now incorporate additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for History A. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following:

- AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history.
- AO2** Demonstrate their understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of:
 - Key concepts – causation, consequence, continuity, change and significance within an historical context
 - Key features and characteristics of the periods studied, and the relationships between them.
- AO3** Understand, analyse and evaluate:
 - A range of source material as part of an historical enquiry
 - How aspects of the past have been interpreted and represented in different ways, as part of a historical enquiry.



ISTORY B

Our specification for GCSE History B: Modern World allows a closer look at some significant events during the 20th and early 21st century. Going beyond the simple learning of dates and events, History B looks at how events shaped the modern world.

Benefits that our GCSE History B specification offers you and your learners are:

- An opportunity to study key historical events, people, changes and issues of history, in particular the 20th century
- A closer look at changes in British society, including the changing roles of women, changing patterns of ethnicity and how young people's lives have changed
- A view of history from national and international perspectives
- A detailed look at the most dramatic and troubled periods of human history
- An appreciation of how learning from past events can help improve the future
- An insight into international relations, global conflict and political developments in key countries
- In-depth studies of:
 - Germany, 1918 – 1945
 - Russia, 1905 – 1941
 - The USA, 1919 – 1941
 - Mao's China, c.1930 – 1976
 - The Causes and Events of the First World War, 1890 – 1918
 - End of Empire, c.1919 – 1969
 - The USA, 1945 – 1975: Land of Freedom?
- Qualifications supported by a variety of media resources
- The option to study a Short Course, offering more flexibility.



HISTORY B

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
<p>Unit A971: Aspects of International Relations 1919–2005 and the Chosen Study in Depth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Learners will be expected to demonstrate their ability to describe and explain historical change and cause, and analyse different features of historical situations.	<p>Written examination 2 hours 81 marks</p>	<p>45%</p>
<p>Unit A972: British Depth Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This unit will involve a detailed investigation of a historical issue taken from the chosen British Depth Study.	<p>Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes 53 marks</p>	<p>30%</p>
<p>Unit A973: Historical Enquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Learners must complete one task based on a set question chosen from one of four options.	<p>Controlled assessment 50 marks</p>	<p>25%</p>

Please note that the total marks for Units A971 and A972 now incorporate additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for History B. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history.
- **AO2** Demonstrate their understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of:
 - Key concepts – causation, consequence, continuity, change and significance within an historical context
 - Key features and characteristics of the periods studied, and the relationships between them.
- **AO3** Understand, analyse and evaluate:
 - A range of source material as part of an historical enquiry
 - How aspects of the past have been interpreted and represented in different ways, as part of a historical enquiry.

GCSE HISTORY SHORT COURSE

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
<p>Unit A981: Aspects of International Relations 1919–2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The content consists of a three-part International Relations Core, 1919–2005.• Learners study any one part:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part 1. The Inter-War Years 1919–1939• Part 2. The Cold War 1945–1975• Part 3. 1948–2005: A New World?	<p>Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes 56 marks</p>	<p>50%</p>
<p>Unit A982: British Historical Enquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learners must complete one task based on a set question chosen from one of two options.	<p>Controlled assessment 2,000 words 50 marks</p>	<p>50%</p>

Please note that the total marks for Unit A981 now incorporate additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The assessments are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for History B. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history.
- **AO2** Demonstrate their understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of:
 - Key concepts – causation, consequence, continuity, change and significance within an historical context
 - Key features and characteristics of the periods studied, and the relationships between them.
- **AO3** Understand, analyse and evaluate:
 - A range of source material as part of an historical enquiry
 - How aspects of the past have been interpreted and represented in different ways, as part of an historical enquiry.



GCSE 2012 CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT

The Government has now confirmed that unitised GCSEs will be replaced by linear assessment for candidates starting a two-year course from September 2012.

The reforms are designed to:

- Ensure that GCSE examinations are taken at the end of the course by making all assessment linear
- Remove the potential for re-sitting individual units, meaning that examinations for History will only take place in the June series.

WHAT THIS MEANS

- Candidates who start a two-year course in September 2012 will take all of their GCSE units in June 2014 at the end of their course and in the same series that they will certificate for their qualification.
- These changes will not affect any candidates on a two-year course that started in September 2011, or candidates who start a one-year course in September 2012, who will still be able to enter in a unitised way.
- They will have an impact on Year 9 candidates who started a three-year programme in September 2011. These candidates will now be required to take all of their assessment in June 2014.

RE-TAKES/RE-SITS

The introduction of linear GCSEs will also prevent the mid-course re-sitting of units:

- Candidates who started a two-year course in September 2011 and are certificating in June 2013 will have the opportunity to re-sit a whole qualification, taking all their external assessments in the same sitting: in the June 2014 series, where linear assessment rules apply. They will, however, be able to carry forward their most recent results used for certification from controlled assessment unit(s).
- Candidates starting a two-year course in September 2012 and who are certificating in June 2014 will have the opportunity to re-sit a whole qualification in the June 2015 series, where linear assessment rules apply.
- There will be additional opportunities for candidates to re-take complete English, English Language and Maths GCSEs in a November 2013 examination series, where a 40% terminal rule applies. From November 2014 the linear 100% terminal rule will apply. These subjects are seen to be the most critical GCSEs for all progression paths. There is an expected demand for an additional opportunity to re-sit exams.

For more information about the changes to GCSEs from 2012, visit www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012



SUPPORT

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT YOU

Our aim is to help you at every stage and we work in close consultation with teachers and other experts to provide a practical package of high-quality resources and support.

We provide everything you need to teach our specifications with confidence and ensure that your students get as much as possible from our qualifications.

Our support materials are designed to save you time while you prepare for and teach our specifications. In response to what you have told us, we offer detailed guidance on key topics, controlled assessment and curriculum planning.

Visit www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012 to access all of our support by selecting the qualification you require.

Our essential FREE support includes:

Materials and resources

- Specimen assessment materials and mark schemes
- Guide to controlled assessment
- Sample controlled assessment material
- Exemplar candidate work
- Teacher's Handbook
- Sample schemes of work and lesson plans
- Guide to curriculum planning
- Past papers.

Visit www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012 to access all of our support by selecting the qualification you require.



OCR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - MORE ACCESSIBLE, MORE COST-EFFECTIVE, SAME VALUED CONTENT

Here at OCR we are constantly looking for ways to improve the support we offer to teachers. Most recently we've been considering the increasing challenges that schools face in releasing teachers for INSET, and how OCR can make its Professional Development Programme more accessible and convenient for all.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2012, OUR NEW IMPROVED PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE:

FREE online professional development units available when and where you want them

If you want to better understand the specification or keep abreast of information about previous examinations and important changes then these are for you.

- **Available online 24/7** – view the training at a time and place to suit you
- **Free to access** – no travel or training costs, but the same helpful support and advice
- **Self-contained learning** – manage your own learning, so that you get a more focused and personalised experience – and return to it at any time

FREE live web broadcasts of professional development events

Through webinars, studio discussions or multi-site broadcasts, these events will give you a chance to have your questions answered directly by OCR's qualification and assessment experts.

- **Interactive** – you can submit your queries prior to or during the broadcast for an immediate response
- **Live** – hear advice and guidance straight from OCR staff and Senior Assessors, with options to attend in person or watch online
- **Skills improvement** – focusing on improving your delivery skills and understanding of OCR qualifications

A series of 'not to be missed' premier professional development events

Large-scale, subject-specific events focused on keeping you up to date with the latest developments in your subject area, innovative classroom delivery and reigniting your passion for teaching.

- **Professional development** – new insights and ideas from leaders in their field
- **Networking** – opportunities to interact with a large number of subject-specialist teachers
- **Cost-effective** – reduced cost for teachers to attend these high-impact events
- **Face-to-face** – a reduced portfolio of more traditional INSET events
- **Training sessions** – to help you understand and manage controlled assessment and to support some vocational courses.

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

- **Visit ocronlinetraining.org.uk** to keep up to date with all the latest information about our new programme.
- Sign up for updates at **ocr.org.uk/updates** and be the first to find out about our exciting Professional Development Programme.

NEED MORE HELP?

You can contact our team at **professionaldevelopment@ocr.org.uk** who will be happy to help.



SERVICES

Answers @ OCR – a web-based service where you can access specific up-to-date information, browse hot topics and FAQs, or email us with your questions. Visit <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>

Active Results for GCSE is a free online results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results in order to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and individual students. For more information, go to www.ocr.org.uk/activeresults

OCR Interchange is a secure website for centres that offers a variety of services for Exams Officers and teachers, including the ability to carry out day-to-day administrative online functions quickly and efficiently.

OCR social network is a free platform where teachers can engage with each other – and with OCR – to share ideas and best practice, offer guidance, and access a range of support materials produced by other teachers. To sign up, go to <http://social.ocr.org.uk>



A FEW GOOD REASONS TO WORK WITH OCR

- You can enjoy the **freedom and excitement** of teaching qualifications that have been developed to help you inspire students of all abilities.
- We've built specifications **with you in mind**, using a clear and easy-to-understand format, making them straightforward for you to deliver.
- Our **clear and sensible assessment** approach means that exam papers and requirements are clearly presented and sensibly structured for you and your students.
- **Pathways for choice** – we have the broadest range of qualifications, and our GCSEs provide an ideal foundation for students to progress to more advanced studies and to the workplace.
- **Working in partnership to support you** – together with teachers, we've developed a range of practical help and support to save you time. We provide everything you need to teach our specifications with confidence and ensure that your students get as much as possible from our qualifications.
- **A personal service** – as well as providing you with lots of support resources, we're also here to help you with specialist advice, guidance and support for those times when you simply need a more individual service.

OUR AIM IS TO ASSIST YOU HOWEVER WE CAN

As well as providing you with a wide range of support services and resources to pick and choose from, we're also here to help you with specialist advice, guidance and support for those times when you simply need a more individual service.

HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT US FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE:

By phone: 01223 553998

By email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

By online: <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>

By fax: 01223 552627

By post: Customer Contact Centre, OCR, Progress House, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8JQ

DON'T FORGET – you can download specifications and all our support materials at www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012

YOUR CHECKLIST

- ✓ Bookmark www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2012
- ✓ Be among the first to hear about support materials and resources as they become available. Register for email updates at www.ocr.org.uk/updates
- ✓ Access FREE online training and book onto courses at www.ocr.org.uk/ocronlinetraining.org.uk
- ✓ Learn more about Active Results at www.ocr.org.uk/activeresults
- ✓ Join our social network community for teachers at www.social.ocr.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk/history

Contact us

Keep up to date on the latest news by registering to receive e-alerts at www.ocr.org.uk/updates

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