

GCSE History

Course content and overview

The GCSE History course covers a wide range of Welsh, British, European and World History. In Unit 1, pupils will follow an in-depth study of Britain from 1930-1951. This includes the pre-war depression years, the major events of the war, such as the Blitz and then post-war recovery, including the establishment of the NHS. In Unit 2, pupils study the USA in the 1920s and the changes in American society, culture and the economy. This includes investigations into racism, the era of prohibition and popular entertainment.

In Unit 3, pupils study the very popular crime and punishment course. This measures change and continuity from the sixteenth century up until the present day; studying crimes such as heresy, highway robbery and even modern day internet scams. The changes in attitudes to punishments are also covered, including the abolition of the death penalty. In addition, Unit 4 involves a Non-Examination Assessment, which will develop the skills of an historian.

Assessment Details

Exam Board: **WJEC**

Assessment: **four units**

Unit 1: Depression, War and Recovery 1930-1951. Written exam of 1 hour in June Year 11 (25%).

Unit 2: USA: A Nation of Contrasts 1910-1929. Written exam of 1 hour in June Year 11 (25%).

Unit 3: Changes in Crime and Punishment c.1500-present day. Written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes in June Year 10 (30%)

Unit 4: NEA Working as an historian: Social developments in Jack the Ripper's London. Two essays in September/October Year 10 (20%).

Useful Revision Guides, resources and websites

The History GCSE specification can be found at: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/gzsn4pg5/wjec-gcse-history-spec-from-2017-e.pdf>

Revision materials can be found at BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zwwwxghv> and on the WJEC website: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/history-gcse/?sub_nav_level=digital-resources#tab_resources

Supporting Home Learning

- Completion of home study and regular revision of teaching notes will enable pupils to embed their knowledge and ensure familiarity with different question types.
- Independent source analysis and practice exam questions will develop the skills of an historian.

Progression Routes & Careers

If you are interested in making sense of today's world you should study History. The skills remain with you for life: the ability to explain; to research independently; to think critically. These can be applied in other areas, as well as career options such as law, politics or journalism. Most importantly, you gain an ability to make sense of events in an ever-changing world.

History is a valued qualification for a wide range of courses. It is often valued by universities for students studying seemingly unrelated subjects, such as medicine, the sciences or engineering, as it demonstrates a wider interest and useful skills that perhaps not all candidates will possess. Courses with an obvious link include History, Ancient History, Politics, Law, Education, Archaeology, Heritage and Tourism. Career paths include areas such as Law, Politics, Journalism, Education, Archaeology, Tourism and Heritage.

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