

AQA GCSE History



Why should I study GCSE History?



History is interesting! It is the story of us; how the world was shaped and how the past influences the world of the future. Studying GCSE History enhances critical thinking skills through the analysis of historical events and evidence. It provides a global perspective, fostering an understanding of diverse cultures and societies. History contributes to informed citizenship by offering insights into the forces that have shaped societies. History also supports personal development, deepening one's sense of identity and building a lifelong love of learning.

What will I study?

GCSE History is studied in four elements:



Paper 1: Period Study. America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality. This unit focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change, when some Americans lived the 'American Dream' whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice.

Paper 1: Wider World Depth Study: Conflict and Tension between East and West, 1945-1972 This unit focuses on the causes and events of the Cold War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the tensions which arose during the Cold War.

Paper 2: Thematic study. Britain: Migration, empires and the people c.790-present. This unit is a study in development; investigating migration to, from and within Britain to gain an understanding of how the identity of the people of Britain has been shaped by their interaction with the wider world.

Paper 2: British Depth Study, including the historic environment: Norman England c.1066-c.1100. This unit will study the arrival of the Normans and the establishment of their rule. The historic environment is a depth study of a specific site linked to a feature of the Norman's unit. The site changes each year.

How will I be assessed?



GCSE History is assessed in two examinations at the end of the two-year course.

- Paper 1: Period and world depth studies. Examination lasting 2 hours. Worth 50% of final grade.
- Paper 2: Thematic study and British depth study. Examination lasting 2 hours. Worth 50% of final grade.

Which skills will I develop and use?



In addition to studying a wide range of fascinating historic periods, you'll learn a range of skills that will help you with A-levels and future work in. These include:

- Critical Thinking skills: analysis and interpretation of information.
- Research, investigation and communication skills: learning how to effectively construct and present an argument, orally and in writing
- Problem-solving skills: considering different perspectives to find solutions to complex situations
- Curating a global perspective and appreciation of the diverse nature of the world

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The skills acquired through the study of History at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subjects post 16, in particular history, law, politics, sociology, English and media.

History is very useful for the world of work. Its study helps create the skills needed by: Solicitors & Barristers; Politicians; Business men & women; TV presenters; Police officers; Comedians; Computer game designers; Teachers. In fact, the skills you develop while studying History can be used in ANY occupation.