



















Mapping the OCR B Specification to the Edexcel in GCSE History

OCR B	Edexcel
Three written papers	Three written papers
Paper 1: Thematic study and British depth study <i>1 hour 45 minutes (40%, 20% for each component)</i>	Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment <i>1 hour 15 minutes (30%)</i>
Section A: A Thematic study – 40 marks Four questions assessing knowledge and understanding. For the fourth question students answer one from a choice of two.	Section A: historic environment – 16 marks One question that assesses knowledge plus a two-part question based on two provided sources.
Section B: British depth study – 40 marks Four questions, three compulsory questions based on the use of one or two interpretations. For the fourth question students answer one from a choice of two assessing knowledge and understanding and use of an interpretation.	Section B: thematic study – 36 marks Three questions that assess knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students answer one from a choice of two.
Paper Choices	Paper Choices
Section A Students take one of the following options:	Students take one of the following options:
 The People's Health, c.1250 to present	 10: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city
 Crime and Punishment, c.1250 to present	 11: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches
 Migrants to Britain, c.1250 to present	 12: Warfare and British society, c1250–present and London and the Second World War, 1939–45
Section B: Students take one of the following options in	
 The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087	
 The Elizabethans, 1580–1603	
 Britain in Peace and War, 1900–1918	

The coloured squares indicate similar units across both awarding organisations.

OCR B	Edexcel
Paper 2: History around us <i>1 hour (25%)</i>	Paper 2: Period study and British depth study <i>1 hour 45 minutes (40%)</i>
<p>50 marks</p> <p>Questions will be based on the aspects listed in the criteria for the selection of the site and the additional historical sources. Each question will combine elements from two or more aspects of the criteria. Learners will be expected to use their knowledge and understanding of the site to analyse and evaluate it.</p>	<p>Section A Period study – 32 marks Three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students select two out of three parts.</p> <p>Section B British depth study – 32 marks A three-part question that assesses their knowledge and understanding. The first two parts are compulsory. For the third part, students select one from a choice of two.</p>
Paper Choices	Paper Choices
Centres must submit their own site for approval for this paper	Section A Students take one of the following period study options:
	 Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555
	 British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution
	 The American West, c1835–c1895
	 Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
	 Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95
	Section B Students take one of the following British depth study options:
	 Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
	 The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216
	 Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40
	 Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

OCR B		Edexcel	
Paper 3: Period study and Depth study <i>1 hour 45 minutes (40%, 20% for each component)</i>		Paper 3: Modern depth study <i>1 hour 20 minutes (30%)</i>	
Section A – Period study – 40 marks Five compulsory questions assessing knowledge and understanding and one further question from a choice of two.		Section A – 16 marks One question based on a provided source and one question that assesses their knowledge and understanding.	
Section B – Depth study – 40 marks One question based on the use of one source and one question based on a collection of sources/interpretations. One further question from a choice of two assessing knowledge and understanding.		Section B – 36 marks One single four-part question, based on two provided sources and two provided interpretations.	
Paper Choices		Paper Choices	
Section A Students take one of the following:		Students take one of the following modern depth studies:	
	Viking Expansion, c.750–c.1050		
	The Mughal Empire, 1526–1707		Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41
	The Making of America, 1789–1900		Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39
Section B Students take one of the following:		Mao's China, 1945–76	
	The First Crusade, c.1070–1100		The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad
	Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535		
	Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945		
Please note that there are an additional 10 marks for SPAG			

Key Similarities

- Similar final assessment structure with three written exams meaning students are less likely to suffer from exam fatigue.
- Topics which allow students to study a chronological range of at least 800 years.
- Substantial elements of both British and non-British history.
- Topics which allow students to demonstrate understanding of the process of change and key factors.

Key Benefits of the Edexcel Specification

- Clear and coherent structure – our qualification has a straightforward structure with four elements, assessed through three externally examined papers. There are no prohibited combinations, giving you flexibility to design a coherent course that is appropriate for your students.
- Assessment over 3 three exams rather than two allows the weighting of marks to be spread and the burden of individual examinations to be lessened. Exam papers are shorter, so students are less likely to be affected by exam fatigue.
- There's a maximum of two topics covered in every paper, so students don't need to switch between topics too often in an exam.
- Historic environment sites which do not change nested within thematic studies – we have chosen a specific site linked to each of our well-established British thematic studies that will be engaging for students to study.
- Clear and straightforward question papers with a consistent approach across questions that test the same assessment objectives and comparable qualities, so you can focus on the historical skills and understanding rather than the mechanics of individual questions. Some choice of questions on a paper.
- Progression of content from GCSE to A Level and similar approaches to assessment, so that students will have a coherent and diverse experience of history if they take both an Edexcel GCSE and A Level in History.
- GCSE builds on Key Stage 3 by studying new areas of content and by revisiting and deepening students' knowledge of content studied previously. A free, ready-made and editable Progression Scale and Map, covers how learning progresses in history in KS3 and KS4 and how understanding and skills build upon each other.
- A Getting Started guide gives you an overview of the GCSE History qualification to help you to get to grips with the content and assessment and to help you understand what this means for you and your students.
- Free teaching and learning support including: editable course planner and topic-specific schemes of work that you can adapt to suit your department. Topic booklets with background information about the topic, resource lists and timelines. Additional guidance on teaching approaches to the thematic study and historic environment and guidance on teaching source and interpretations skills.
- Range of specimen papers to support formative assessments and mock exams and levelled exemplars of student work with examiner commentaries. Mock marking training can also be provided.
- ResultsPlus service providing the most detailed analysis available of your students' exam performance. It can help you identify the topics and skills where further learning would benefit your students.
- Use of ExamWizard, a free exam preparation tool containing a bank of past Edexcel GCSE History exam questions, mark schemes and examiners' reports.
- Dedicated subject advisor service and online community.