






# Mapping the OCR A Specification to the Edexcel in GCSE History

OCR A	Edexcel
Three written papers	Three written papers
<b>Paper 1: Period study and non-British depth study</b> <i>1 hour 45 minutes (50%)</i>	<b>Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment</b> <i>1 hour 15 minutes (30%)</i>
<b>Section A: Period study</b> – 65 marks Two questions assessing knowledge and understanding and two questions analysing and evaluating extracts from interpretations.	<b>Section A: historic environment</b> – 16 marks One question that assesses knowledge plus a two-part question based on two provided sources.
<b>Section B: Non-British depth study</b> – 40 marks Three questions assessing knowledge and understanding and one or two questions using two sources.	<b>Section B: thematic study</b> – 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.
<b>Paper Choices</b>	<b>Paper Choices</b>
<b>Section A – Taken by all students</b>	<b>Students take one of the following options:</b>
 International Relations: the changing international order 1918–2001	10: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city
	11: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches
	 12: Warfare and British society, c1250–present and London and the Second World War, 1939–45
<b>Students take one of the following options in Section B:</b>	
 China 1950–1981: The People and the State	
 Germany 1925–1955: The People and the State	
Poland 1956–1990: The People and the State	
 Russia 1928–1964: The People and the State	
South Africa 1960–1994: The People and the State	
The USA 1919–1948: The People and the State	
The USA 1945–1974: The People and the State	

*The coloured squares indicate similar units across both awarding organisations.*

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<b>Paper 2: British Thematic study</b> <i>1 hour (25%)</i>		<b>Paper 2: Period study and British depth study</b> <i>1 hour 45 minutes (40%)</i>	
<b>British Thematic study</b> – 50 marks Four questions which will assess knowledge and understanding.		<b>Section A</b> 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.	
		<b>Section B</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.	
<b>Paper Choices</b>		<b>Paper Choices</b>	
<b>Students study one of the following options:</b>		<b>Section A</b> <b>Students take one of the following period study options:</b>	
	Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010		Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555
	Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014		British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution
	War and British Society c.790 to c.2010		The American West, c1835–c1895
			Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
			Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95
		<b>Section B</b> <b>Students take one of the following British depth study options:</b>	
			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

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<b>Paper 3: British depth study and a study of the historic environment</b> <i>1 hour 15 minutes (30%)</i>  <i>Each British depth study and a study of the historic environment links to one of the three thematic studies, and these must be taken together</i>	<b>Paper 3: Modern depth study</b> <i>1 hour 20 minutes (30%)</i>
<b>Section A</b> – British depth study – 35 marks One question assessing knowledge and one essay using sources.	<b>Section A</b> – 16 marks One question based on a provided source and one question that assesses their knowledge and understanding.
<b>Section B</b> – Historic environment – 20 marks Two questions one assessing knowledge and understanding and one source comparison question.	<b>Section B</b> – 36 marks One single four-part question, based on two provided sources and two provided interpretations.
<b>Paper Choices</b>	<b>Paper Choices</b>
<b>Students take one of the following combinations:</b>	<b>Students take one of the following modern depth studies:</b>
The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688–c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration	Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41
The English Reformation c.1520–c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750	Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39
Personal Rule to Restoration 1629–1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750 (3)	Mao's China, 1945–76
Please note that there are an additional 10 marks for SPAG	The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

## 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 1000 years.
- Substantial elements of both British and non-British history.
- Topics which allow students to demonstrate understanding of the process of change.

## 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 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.