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AQA	Edexcel
Two Written Papers	Three Written Papers
Paper 1: Understanding the modern world <i>1 hour 45 minutes (50%)</i>	Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment <i>1 hour 15 minutes (30%)</i>
Section A: Period study – 40 marks Six compulsory questions, three questions based on two interpretations and three questions that assess knowledge and understanding	Section A: historic environment – 16 marks One question that assesses knowledge plus a two-part question based on two provided sources.
Section B: Wider world depth studies – 44 marks Four compulsory questions, two questions assessing analysis and evaluation of sources. Two questions assessing knowledge and understanding	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
Students take one of the following options in Section A:	Students take one of the following options:
 America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation	10: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city. crime, policing and the inner city
 Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship	11: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches
 Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and communism	
 America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality	12: Warfare and British society, c1250–present and London and the Second World War, 1939–45
Students take one of the following options in Section B:	
 Conflict and tension, 1894–1918	
 Conflict and tension, 1918–1939	
 Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972	
 Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975 Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975	
 Conflict and tension, 1990–2009	

The coloured squares indicate similar units across both awarding organisations.

AQA	Edexcel
Paper 2: Thematic study and British depth study <i>1 hour 45 minutes (50%)</i>	Paper 2: Period study and British depth study <i>1 hour 45 minutes (40%)</i>
Section A Thematic study – 40 marks Four compulsory questions One source question using one source and three questions assessing knowledge and understanding.	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.
Section B – 44 marks Four compulsory questions, one question based on one interpretation and three questions assessing knowledge and understanding	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.
Paper Choices	Paper Choices
Section A Students take one of the following thematic options:	Section A Students take one of the following period study options:
 Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day	 Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555
 Britain: Power and the people: c1170 to the present day	 British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution
 Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day	 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:	Section B Students take one of the following British depth study options:
 Norman England, c1066–c1100	 Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
 Medieval England - the reign of Edward I, 1272–1307	 The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216
 Elizabethan England, c1568–1603	 Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40
 Restoration England, 1660–1685	 Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

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Paper 3: Modern depth study *1 hour 20 minutes (30%)*

Section A – 16 marks

One question based on a provided source and one question that assesses their knowledge and understanding.

Section B – 36 marks

One single four-part question, based on two provided sources and two provided interpretations.

Paper Choices

Students take one of the following modern depth studies:

Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Mao's China, 1945–76

The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

Key Similarities

- 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 with key factors identified.
- Similar style essay questions.

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.