

Information for AQA Centres teaching AS and A Level History

Edexcel's specification uniquely allows centres to devise a course of study in British history. A wide range of choices in all units includes popular themes and many new and interesting areas of study. An important feature of Edexcel's specification is Unit 1, where students study two short courses, providing variety and breadth, especially for those who might not continue to A level. There is a substantial range of support for teachers, including the online Communities site, Ask the Expert and, another unique feature, an extensive Exemplification Report on each examination, which is both practical and positive in its content.

AQA Unit Content	Edexcel Unit Content	Comments
<p>Unit 1 - HIS1 Change and Consolidation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 British and non-British option papers, ranging from The Crusading Movement, 1095-1204 to Britain, 1906-51. Candidates answer two questions from a choice of three. Each question has two sub-questions, worth 12 and 24 marks. Centres may not combine a British Unit 1 with a British Unit 2. There are several prohibited combinations for Units 1 and 2. 	<p>Unit 1 - 6HI01 Historical Themes in Breadth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six option papers are offered (Options E and F are identical except that F includes an extra topic on Germany 1918-45). Each paper has seven topics (six in Option E). Candidates study any two topics. There are many new areas of study offered, including Option A, English History, 793-1509, and Option C, The British Empire from its origins to decolonisation. Candidates answer one question from a choice of two in each of their two topics. There are no sub-questions. The exam lasts for 80 minutes. Only AO1 is assessed. 	<p>Edexcel's specification allows centres to teach topics with which they are already comfortable, or to introduce one or two new areas of study. These might include Alfred the Great; the European Witchcraze; Origins of the British Empire; the USA, 1968-2001; or the Middle East, 1945-2001.</p> <p>There are no prohibited combinations for Units 1 and 2*. Centres choose how to interpret the requirement to study the history of more than one country or the history of more than one period.</p> <p>Edexcel candidates complete two tasks, compared with AQA's four.</p> <p>* Centres may not enter candidates for Option F and for Option D1: Germany, 1900-45 in A Level Unit 3.</p>
<p>Unit 2 - HIS2 Historical Issues: Periods of Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 British and non-British option papers, ranging from the Norman 	<p>Unit 2 - 6HI02 British History Depth Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 options, each with two topics, ranging from Henry VIII to the 	<p>New areas of study include Britain and Ireland, 1867-1922, Britain and India, 1900-47, and Media, Culture and Society since 1945. Edexcel candidates complete two tasks,</p>

<p>Conquest to Britain in the 1960s.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates answer two questions: a compulsory two-part source-based question, and one two-part question (from two) based on own knowledge. • There are several prohibited combinations for Units 1 and 2. 	<p>present day. Candidates study one topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates answer two questions; a compulsory source-based question, and a question using sources and own knowledge. The exam lasts for 80 minutes. 	<p>compared with AQA's four. Edexcel has retained a single option on the reign of Henry VIII.</p>
<p>Unit 3 - HIS3 The state and the people: Change and continuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates answer two essay style questions from a choice of three. • One unit from 13 offered is studied. 	<p>Unit 3 - 6HI03 Depth Studies and Associated Historical Controversies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five papers are offered, with two options in each. • In Section A candidates choose one of two questions. These are causal or judgement questions. • In Section B candidates answer a source-based question on an associated controversy. They choose one of two questions. 	<p>Unit 3 is the only examination taken at Advanced Level, and both boards offer it in June only. Edexcel has provided a number of study units linked to the old Units 5 and 6, along with new topics, such as the American Civil War and Germany, 1900-45. Unit 3 maintains Edexcel's policy of allowing candidates choice when choosing their questions.</p> <p>AQA's examination lasts for 90 minutes. Edexcel's exam is longer at 2 hours, but this is to allow for a detailed and thorough consideration of the Part B sources.</p>
<p>Unit 4 - HIS4X Historical Enquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coursework unit. The area of study is chosen by the teacher, or may be an individual choice by each student. • The work submitted must be in essay form and in continuous prose. • 16 exemplars are provided by AQA. 	<p>Unit 4 - 6HI04 Historical Enquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coursework unit. The area of study is chosen by the teacher, or may be an individual choice by each student. • Part A is an in-depth enquiry into the short-term significance of a key event or individual. • Part B sets the chosen individual or event into the broader context of change. 	<p>AQA provides 16 exemplar units; Edexcel offers 45, which may be extended chronologically by the centre. Full support is given to centres wishing to develop their own coursework unit which might reflect the interests of the centre's candidature.</p> <p>Unlike AQA, Edexcel candidates may submit their coursework in either the January or June examination sessions.</p>

Information for OCR Centres teaching AS and A Level History

Edexcel's specification uniquely allows centres to devise a course of study in British history. Equally, a wide range of choices in all units includes popular themes and many new and interesting areas of study. An important feature of Edexcel's specification is Unit 1, where students study two short courses, providing variety and breadth, especially for those who might not continue to A level. There is a substantial range of support for teachers, including the online Communities site, Ask the Expert and, another unique feature, an extensive Exemplification Report on each examination, which is both practical and positive in its content. This information applies to OCR's specification A only.

OCR Unit Content	Edexcel Unit Content	Comments
<p>Unit 1 - F961/962 Period Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates study either one of 12 British topics or one of 16 non-British topics. • Three one-part questions are set in the examination: candidates answer any two. The exam lasts for 90 minutes. • AS candidates must study British and non-British history. 	<p>Unit 1 - 6HI01 Historical Themes in Breadth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six option papers are offered (Options E and F are identical except that F includes an extra topic on Germany 1918-45). Each paper has seven topics (six in Option E). Candidates study any two short topics, which may be similar or contrasting. • Candidates answer one question from a choice of two in each of their two topics. The exam lasts for 80 minutes. 	<p>Edexcel's specification allows centres to teach topics with which they are already comfortable, or to introduce new areas of study. These might include Alfred the Great; the European Witchcraze; Origins of the British Empire; the USA, 1968-2001; or the Middle East, 1945-2001.</p> <p>There are no prohibited combinations for Units 1 and 2*. Centres choose how to interpret the requirement to study the history of more than one country or the history of more than one period.</p> <p>* Centres may not enter candidates for Option F and for Option D1: Germany, 1900-45 in A Level Unit 3.</p>
<p>Unit 2 - F963/964 Historical enquiries</p> <p>Candidates study either one of 7 British history topics or one of 7 non-British history topics.</p>	<p>Unit 2 - 6HI02 British History Depth Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 options, each with two topics, ranging from Henry VIII to the present day. Candidates study one topic. 	<p>New areas of study include Britain and Ireland, 1867-1922, Britain and India, 1900-47, and Media, Culture and Society since 1945. Edexcel has retained a single option on the reign of Henry VIII.</p>

<p>Candidates answer one two-part question in the exam, which is 90 minutes long.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates answer two questions; a compulsory source-based question, and one question (from a choice of two) using sources and own knowledge. The exam lasts for 80 minutes. 	
<p>Unit 4 - F966 Historical Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve options are offered on British and non-British themes covering 100 years or more. • Three questions are set, and candidates answer two questions in 2 hours. 	<p>Unit 3 - 6HI03 Depth Studies and Associated Historical Controversies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five papers are offered, with two options in each. • In Section A candidates choose one of two questions. These are causal or judgement questions. • In Section B candidates answer a source-based question on an associated controversy. They choose one of two questions. 	<p>Unit 3 is the only examination taken at Advanced Level, and thus it is essential to engage students' interest. Edexcel has provided a number of study units linked to the old Units 5 and 6, along with new topics, such as the American Civil War and Germany, 1900-45. Unit 3 maintains Edexcel's policy of allowing candidates choice when choosing their questions.</p> <p>Both examinations are 2 hours long. OCR deals with the 100 years theme in this unit: Edexcel reserves it for coursework Unit 4.</p>
<p>Unit 3 - F965 Historical Interpretations and investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of 22 options set by OCR is studied. • Candidates complete an interpretations task set by OCR. For the investigations section, they complete either an OCR question, or they adapt a generic question. • Candidates from the same centre may not all answer the same investigations question. 	<p>Unit 4 - 6HI04 Historical Enquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coursework unit, meeting the 100 years requirement. The area of study is chosen by the teacher, or may be an individual choice by each student. • Part A is an in-depth enquiry into the short-term significance of a key event or individual. • Part B sets the chosen individual or event into the broader context of change over 100+ years. 	<p>OCR provides 22 units of study; Edexcel offers 45, which may be extended chronologically by the centre.</p> <p>Edexcel centres are free to develop their own coursework unit, perhaps to capitalise on the interests of the teaching staff, or to reflect the interests of their candidates.</p> <p>Candidates may all answer the same question, but are advised to use a range of different sources in framing their answer.</p>