

New Edexcel GCSE (9-1) and A level **History**: your content options

A broad range of content

Ensuring that your students get to study as broad a range of history as possible across the key stages, to help enjoyment and continuation of the subject, we know is important to you.

We've therefore designed our new specifications so that A level builds on GCSE, rather than directly repeating content. Topics such as the Cold War and Vietnam War we've kept at GCSE, where we knew they'd continue to be popular. With topics such as Germany and the Tudors, we now offer them in breadth only at A level, so if students do study Nazi Germany or Henry VIII in depth at GCSE, they can gain a broader picture at A level. This meant we could give much more choice and flexibility at GCSE and feel confident that students wouldn't be directly repeating topics if they took an Edexcel GCSE and an Edexcel A level.

Example GCSE – A level pathways

Here are just a couple of examples of some pathways you could use with our new GCSE* and A level courses. More examples of what other centres are planning to do can be found at www.edexcel.com/historypathways



GCSE example course 1*

- Crime and punishment through time, c1000-present day
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

A level example 1

Route E at A level expands students' understanding of the twentieth century, focusing on communist states. Students' study of the GDR broadens their GCSE study of Weimar and Nazi Germany.

Route E: Communist states in the twentieth century

- Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin
- The German Democratic Republic, 1949–90
- Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928

A level example 2

Route G at A level broadens students' knowledge of Germany, taking the story up to 1989, and builds their understanding of twentieth-century Europe with a study of fascist Italy.

Route G: Nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in twentieth-century Europe

- Germany and West Germany, 1918–89
- The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46
- The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918



GCSE example course 2*

- Warfare through time, c1250–present day
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
- The American West, c1835–c1895
- Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41

A level example 3

Having studied the Russian revolution at GCSE, in Route C students continue the theme with revolutions in Britain and France. The focus on the USA in Paper 3 and the coursework builds on their study of the American West at GCSE.

Route C: Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe

- Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement
- France in revolution, 1774–99
- Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009

A level example 4

Route F broadens the geographical scope of students' GCSE studies, and provides a focus on rights and freedoms, and on empire.

Route F: Searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century

- In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96
- South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'
- Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914

* Please note: this information is based on our draft GCSE specification, which is currently subject to accreditation by Ofqual.