

# Balancing coherence and choice: thematic routes

Our new AS and A level history qualifications aim to balance the coherence needed for teaching in a linear way with the choice of topics that we know are important to you.

We were also keen to address the concern that A level courses can be too fragmented, with students not having enough context for depth studies.

## Paper 1 and 2 routes:

- \* Combine breadth studies in Paper 1 with a choice of two thematically linked depth studies in Paper 2.
- \* Help students to make links and see the broader picture, as well as providing more context for the depth.
- \* Ensure that AS students study a worthwhile and meaningful course, rather than just half an A level.

## Paper 3 and coursework

You have a wider choice of options in Paper 3 and the coursework:

### Paper 3

- \* Offers a greater choice of options: choose a topic from the same period as your Paper 1 and 2 route, or from a different period.
- \* Prohibited combinations ensure that across Papers 1, 2 and 3 you will meet the British requirement and the 200-year rule
- \* All Paper 3 topics cover more than 100 years, so they are substantial and coherent in their own right.

### Coursework

- \* Offers students the opportunity to investigate a problem, question or issue that stems from their Paper 1, 2 or 3 topics, or to look at an entirely new area of content.
- \* The option to choose a new area for coursework allows you to revisit popular topics from previous specifications.

## Finding the best thematic route for you and your students

For Papers 1 and 2, there are eight thematic routes to choose from. These routes are shown on the following pages. For Paper 3, the options available for each route are also shown. You may want to think about the following suggestions as starting points for you and your students.

### A medieval course

- \* You could combine **Route A: Conquest, control and resistance in the medieval world** with the Paper 3 topic Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509.

### An early modern course

- \* **Route B: Religion and the state in early modern Europe** can be taken with the Paper 3 topic The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1590-1736.

### A modern course

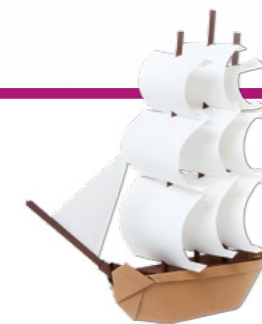
- \* A modern course has to start in the late eighteenth century and end in the late twentieth century to meet the 200-year rule.
- \* **Routes D, E, F, G and H** all allow you to do this.

### A course that spans more than one period

- \* You can meet the 200-year rule by combining topics from more than one period. All routes allow you to do this. For example:
  - \* The medieval topics in **Route A** could be combined with an early modern or modern Paper 3 topic.
  - \* **Route C** combines early modern and modern topics in Papers 1 and 2 – you could take this with a Paper 3 topic from any period.
  - \* **Routes E, F and G** could be taken with an early modern or medieval British paper 3 topic.

Free topic booklets for every topic available on our website:

[www.edexcel.com/alevelhistory2015](http://www.edexcel.com/alevelhistory2015)



## Route A: Conquest, control and resistance in the medieval world

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
The crusades c1095–1204	<p><b>One of:</b> Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053–1106</p> <p>England and the Angevin Empire in the reign of Henry II, 1154–89</p>	<p><b>One of:</b> Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509 Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603 The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598 The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750 Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928 Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939 Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914 The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918 Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928 Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923 The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991 Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991 The making of modern China, 1860–1997 Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009 Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- all Paper 3 topics available with this route
- Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII Paper 3 topic creates a wholly medieval course.

## Route C: Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement	<p><b>One of:</b> France in revolution, 1774–99</p> <p>Russia in revolution, 1894–1924</p>	<p><b>One of:</b> Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509 Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603 The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598 The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750 Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928 Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939 Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914 The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918 Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928 Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923 The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991 Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991 The making of modern China, 1860–1997 Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009 Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- Revolutions theme links topics from different eras
- British requirement met in Paper 2
- 200-year rule met in Papers 1 and 2.

## Route B: Religion and the state in early modern Europe

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
England, 1509–1603: authority, nation and religion	<p><b>One of:</b> Luther and the German Reformation, c1515–55</p> <p>The Dutch Revolt, c1563–1609</p>	<p><b>One of:</b> Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509 Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603 The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598 The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750 Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928 Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939 Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914 The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918 Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928 Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923 The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991 Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991 The making of modern China, 1860–1997 Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009 Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- Witchcraze topic in Paper 3 creates a complete early modern course
- alternatively, combine with any modern topic in Paper 3.

## Route D: Challenges to the authority of the state in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Britain, c1785–c1870: democracy, protest and reform	<p><b>One of:</b> The unification of Italy, c1830–70</p> <p>The unification of Germany, c1840–71</p>	<p><b>One of:</b> Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509 Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603 The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598 The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750 Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928 Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939 Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914 The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918 Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928 Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923 The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991 Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991 The making of modern China, 1860–1997 Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009 Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- British requirement met in Paper 1
- some British topics in Paper 3 prohibited as they do not meet 200-year rule
- allows a modern non-British Paper 3 topic.

Faded out topics show prohibited combinations for each route.

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## Route E: Communist states in the twentieth century

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>Mao's China, 1949–76</p> <p>The German Democratic Republic, 1949–90</p>	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509</p> <p>Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603</p> <p>The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598</p> <p>The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750</p> <p>Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928</p> <p>Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939</p> <p>Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914</p> <p>The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918</p> <p>Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928</p> <p>Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923</p> <p>The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991</p> <p>Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited</p> <p>The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991</p> <p>The making of modern China, 1860–1997</p> <p>Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009</p> <p>Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- Paper 1 builds on popular topics in the current specification, but extends to the fall of the USSR
- Paper 3 topic must be British and start in the late 18th century or earlier.

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

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Germany and West Germany, 1918–89	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46</p> <p>Spain 1930–78: republicanism, Francoism and the re-establishment of democracy</p>	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509</p> <p>Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603</p> <p>The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598</p> <p>The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750</p> <p>Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928</p> <p>Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939</p> <p>Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914</p> <p>The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918</p> <p>Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928</p> <p>Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923</p> <p>The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991</p> <p>Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited</p> <p>The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991</p> <p>The making of modern China, 1860–1997</p> <p>Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009</p> <p>Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- Breadth study on Germany that continues the story post-war
- Paper 3 topic must be British and start in the late 18th century or earlier.

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

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>India c1914–48: the road to independence</p> <p>South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'</p>	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509</p> <p>Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603</p> <p>The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598</p> <p>The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750</p> <p>Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928</p> <p>Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939</p> <p>Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914</p> <p>The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918</p> <p>Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928</p> <p>Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923</p> <p>The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991</p> <p>Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited</p> <p>The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991</p> <p>The making of modern China, 1860–1997</p> <p>Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009</p> <p>Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- Paper 1 builds on popular topics in the current specification
- South Africa is a new topic
- Paper 3 topic must be British and start in the late 18th century or earlier.

## Route H: Democracies in change: Britain and the USA in the twentieth century

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Britain transformed, 1918–97	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery</p> <p>The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge</p>	<p><b>One of:</b></p> <p>Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509</p> <p>Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603</p> <p>The Golden Age of Spain 1474–1598</p> <p>The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–1750</p> <p>Industrialisation and social change in Britain, c1759–1928</p> <p>Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939</p> <p>Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914</p> <p>The British experience of warfare: c1790–1918</p> <p>Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928</p> <p>Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923</p> <p>The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991</p> <p>Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited</p> <p>The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991</p> <p>The making of modern China, 1860–1997</p> <p>Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850–2009</p> <p>Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004</p>

- British requirement is met in Paper 1
- The later options aren't available in Paper 3 as they do not meet the 200-year rule.

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