

# Mapping the AQA Specification to the Edexcel in A Level History

AQA	Edexcel
80% Written Papers, 20% Coursework	80% Written Papers, 20% Coursework
<b>Paper 1: Breadth Study with Historical Interpretations</b> <i>2 hours 30 minutes (40%)</i>	<b>Paper 1: Breadth Study with Historical Interpretations</b> <i>2 hours 15 minutes (30%)</i>
<b>Section A</b> – 30 marks * One question linked to historical interpretations based on the analysis of three secondary sources and based upon topics identified in the specification	<b>Section A</b> – 20 marks * One essay from a choice of two based upon topics identified in the specification and which cover at least a decade of the chronology
<b>Section B</b> – 2 x 25 marks * Two essays from a choice of three based upon topics identified in the specification and which each cover c25 years of the chronology	<b>Section B</b> – 20 marks * One essay from a choice of two based upon topics identified in the specification and which cover at least a third of the chronology
	<b>Section C</b> – 20 marks * One question linked to historical interpretations based upon the analysis of <i>two</i> secondary sources and linked to the specific topic named in the specification
Paper Choices	Paper Choices
The Age of the Crusades, c1071–1204	The Crusades, c1095–1204
The Tudors: England, 1485–1603	England, 1509–1603: authority, nation and religion
Stuart Britain, 1603–1702	Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement
Industrialisation and the People: Britain, c1783–1885	Britain, c1785–c1870: democracy, protest and reform
Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964	Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin
The Making of a Superpower: the USA, 1865–1975	In Search of the American Dream: the USA, c 1917–96
The Quest for Political Stability: Germany 1871–1991	Germany and West Germany, 1918–89
Challenge and Transformation: Britain, c1851–1964	Britain Transformed, 1918–97
Spain in the Age of Discovery, 1469–1598	
Russia, Absolutism and Enlightenment, 1682–1796	
The British Empire, c1857–1967	

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

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<b>Paper 2: Study in Depth</b> <i>2 hours 30 minutes (40%)</i>	<b>Paper 2: Study in Depth</b> <i>1 hour 30 minutes (20%)</i>
<b>Section A</b> – 30 marks * One question linked to <i>three</i> primary sources	<b>Section A</b> – 20 marks * One question linked to <i>two</i> primary sources
<b>Section B</b> – 2 x 25 marks * <i>Two</i> essays from a choice of three based upon topics identified in the specification	<b>Section B</b> – 20 marks * <i>One</i> essay from a choice of two based upon topics identified in the specification
<b>Paper Choices</b>	<b>Paper Choices</b> <i>(*The availability of Paper 2 options depends on the option chosen for Paper 1 – this is to enable students to study a broad and diverse range of topics which cover similar historical themes.)</i>
Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154–1216	England and the Angevin Empire in the Reign of Henry II, 1154–89
The Reformation in Europe, c1500–44	Luther and the German Reformation, c1515–55
France in Revolution, 1774–1815	France in Revolution, 1774–99
Italy and Fascism, c1900–1945	Fascism in Italy, c 1911–46
Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953	Russia in Revolution, 1894–1924
The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980	The USA, c1955–92, conformity and challenge
The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499	Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053–1106
Religious Conflict and the Church in England, c1529–70	The Dutch Revolt, c1563–1609
The English Revolution, 1625–1660	The Unification of Italy, c1830–70
Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1715	The Unification of Germany, c1840–71
The Birth of the USA, 1760–1801	Mao's China, 1949–76
America: A Nation Divided, c1845–1877	The German Democratic Republic, 1949–90
International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890–1941	India, c 1914–48: the road to independence
Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957	South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to rainbow nation
Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918–1945	Spain, 1930–78: republicanism, Francoism and the re-establishment of democracy
The Transformation of China, 1936–97	The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery
The Cold War, c1945–1991	
The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007	
The Crisis of Communism: The USSR and the Soviet Empire, 1953–2000	

# Edexcel

## Paper 3: Themes in Breadth with Aspects in Depth

2 hours 15 minutes (30%)

### Section A – 20 marks

- \* One question linked to a primary source based upon depth topics identified in the specification

### Section B – 20 marks

- \* One essay from a choice of two based upon depth topics identified in the specification

### Section C – 20 marks

- \* One essay from a choice of two based upon breadth topics identified in the specification – questions cover at least 100 years of the chronology

### Paper Choices

(\*The availability of Paper 2 options depends on the option chosen for Paper 1 – this is to enable students to study a broad and diverse range of topics which cover similar historical themes.)

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, c1580–c1750
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 1871–1991
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

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<p><b>Coursework</b> – 40 marks</p> <p>A personal study based on a topic of student's choice. The focus is on the issues of continuity and change over an approximate range of 100 years. It cannot duplicate the content of options chosen for Papers 1 and 2.</p> <p>A piece of extended writing of 3000-3500 words which addresses the issues of change and continuity.</p> <p>Internally marked and externally moderated, and worth 20% of the total A Level mark.</p> <p>It must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be independently researched and written</li> <li>• draw upon the student's investigation of sources (both primary and secondary) which relate to the issue chosen</li> <li>• evaluate the differing historical interpretations that relate to it</li> </ul>	<p><b>Coursework</b> – 40 marks</p> <p>A personal study based on a topic of the student's choice. The focus is on the nature and purpose of the work of historians, and why they differ. It cannot duplicate the issues covered in Paper 1, Section C.</p> <p>A piece of extended writing of 3000-4000 words which addresses the issue of historical interpretation.</p> <p>Internally marked and externally moderated, and worth 20% of the total A Level mark.</p> <p>It must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be independently researched and written</li> <li>• draw upon the student's study of at least three secondary works, or extracts from secondary works, which offer differing interpretations of their chosen topic</li> <li>• analyse, explain and evaluate historians' arguments</li> </ul>

## Key Similarities

- topics which allow students to study a chronological range of at least 200 years
- substantial elements of both British and non-British history
- topics which allow students to demonstrate understanding of the process of change, both long term and short term
- topics which allow students to develop an understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and enable them to carry out a historical enquiry that is independently researched.

## Key Benefits of the Edexcel Specification

- The 'pathway' approach in Papers 1 and 2 allows students to develop a more thematic approach to study across periods and countries
- Assessment over four components rather than three allowing the weighting of marks to be spread and the burden of individual examinations to assessments to be lessened
- Greater choice of topics relating to Britain, Europe and the World
- Greater scope to combine topics allowing students a more varied experience
- Coursework allows students to choose historical controversies from within units already taught for Papers 1, 2 and 3
- Coursework does not contribute to the 200-year minimum programme of study requirement
- No requirement to submit coursework proposal forms for each student at least 12 months prior to the end of their A Level course (though a free assignment guidance service is available)