

# Moving from the Edexcel Certificate in History to Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History

The Edexcel Certificate in History qualification will be withdrawn after the summer 2017 exam series. So from summer 2018, only the GCSE in History will count in performance tables. [You can read more about this online.](#)

We're here to support you every step of the way in moving to the new Edexcel History GCSE (9–1) specification.\* We've provided this document as a starting point, with information about the new History GCSE specification and links with the Certificate. If you'd like to find out more, you'll find details of how to do so at the end.

## How different is the new GCSE from the Certificate?

The new requirements for GCSE History specifications mean that students will now have to study five elements:

- a thematic study spanning medieval, early modern and modern history
- a period study covering at least 50 years
- a British depth study and a non-British depth study. These must be from different eras (medieval, early modern and modern).
- a historic environment.

This does mean that new GCSE courses will have to cover a broader range of history than the Certificate, but we've included many topics that will be familiar.

## What's similar?

The table below shows where there is overlap between topics in the Certificate in History and our new Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History to highlight where you can find continuity.

Certificate in History	New Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History
Development of dictatorship: Germany, 1918–45	Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39
Dictatorship and conflict in Russia, 1924–53	Paper 3: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41
A world divided: Superpower relations, 1945–62	Paper 2: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
A divided union: Civil rights in the USA, 1945–74	Paper 3: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad
Changing nature of warfare, 1803–1905	Paper 1: Warfare and British society, c1250 to present
Changes in medicine, c1845–c1945	Paper 1: Medicine in Britain, c1250 to present
Conflict, crisis and change: The Middle East, c1919–c1995	Paper 2: Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95
Conflict, crisis and change: China, c1911–c1989	Paper 3: Mao's China, 1945–76
The changing nature of warfare, c1936–c2003I	Paper 1: Warfare and British society, c1250 to present

\*Information is based on the draft specification and sample assessment which are subject to Ofqual accreditation.  
 \*\* You don't have to purchase resources, including those published by Pearson, to deliver our qualification.

So, for your **Thematic study and linked historic environment** (Paper 1), you may be able to find some continuity if you teach either Medicine or Warfare in the Certificate. The GCSE Thematic study is, of course, much broader than these equivalent topics in the Certificate – starting in c1250 – but much of the content for the modern period will be familiar. For example, in the GCSE option on Medicine, you'll still cover: the influence of Florence Nightingale; the impact of anaesthetics and antiseptics on surgery; the influence in Britain of Pasteur's Germ Theory and Koch's work on microbes; Fleming, Florey and Chain's development of penicillin; and fighting Cholera in London, 1854. The historic environment linked to Medicine – The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches – also provides opportunities to look at medicine and the First World War.

For your **Period study** (Paper 2), you may be able to find continuity if you teach either the Cold War or Middle East. Alternatively, you might choose the American West – a popular and established topic in current SHP GCSE specifications – or one of our brand new topics: Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555 or British America 1713–83: empire and revolution.

It's very likely that you'll find something familiar for your **Modern (non-British) depth study**: there's overlap between the Certificate and all four Modern depth studies in the new GCSE specification: Russia, Germany, China, USA.

The one element of the new GCSE that will involve teaching new content is the **British depth study**, as these are medieval or early modern – and the Certificate covers modern history only. As pre-modern history is a new requirement at GCSE, these topics are also new for current GCSE teachers and we carried out extensive research with teachers to choose the topics for this element. The four topics we selected were the ones that proved most popular in our research with teachers and were the topics teachers felt most confident teaching at this level:

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
- The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216
- Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88.

## What else should I know about the new GCSE course?

History matters. That's why we've worked with hundreds of practising teachers and the history education community to create a new GCSE qualification that'll help all students become confident and successful historians.

You may well have taught either our GCSE History A (Modern World) or History B (SHP) specification before moving to the Certificate. If that's the case, you'll find topics that are familiar from your old GCSE course: our new specification brings together the most popular elements of the two current GCSE specifications, as well as some brand-new ones, to give you more choice and flexibility in constructing your course.

Our new GCSE also offers:

- a manageable approach to the new Historic Environment requirement
- assessments that give every student the opportunity to succeed
- expert support to help you every step of the way.

## What help is there for planning the new GCSE course?

Our support takes many forms, all with the aim of helping you plan, teach and assess our new Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History with confidence.

We're providing:

- Guidance on constructing a course: suggested pathways through the specification, with ways of finding links between topics. You may find the suggestions aimed at Modern World teachers fit your Certificate course better than those aimed at current SHP teachers.
- Course planner: guidance on planning your course over two years or three years, with information on the balance of teaching time for each element of the specification and suggested approaches to ordering the topics in your course.
- Schemes of work for every topic in the new GCSE.
- Mapping documents for resources: charts mapping the current GCSE (2013) resources to the new GCSE specification. You may want to use these if you're keen to start planning the course in detail with existing books, before the resources for the new specification are published.
- Topic booklets: also for every topic in the new GCSE, these provide an overview of the topic, content exemplification, a student timeline and suggested resources for teachers and students. They'll be particularly useful for any new topics that you're teaching for the first time.
- Getting Ready to Teach events: these are available both face-to-face and online and provide the opportunity to discuss strategies for planning and teaching the course and take part in activities on the assessment.

## What other support will there be?

- Getting Started Guide: a teacher's guide with a wealth of guidance on the assessment of the new specification.
- Guidance on teaching a thematic study and the historic environment.
- Guidance on approaches to sources and interpretations.
- An extra set of specimen papers.
- Exemplar student answers with commentary.

## What about published resources? \*\*

We're committed to helping teachers deliver our Edexcel qualifications and students to achieve their full potential. To do this, we aim for our qualifications to be supported by a wide range of resources, produced by a range of publishers, including ourselves.

However, it is not necessary to purchase endorsed resources to deliver our qualification.

Pearson's teaching and learning resources will support you in delivering great Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History teaching, creating confident, articulate historians able to access and develop the skills needed for the new assessments. They include:

- Student Books for every option in the specification
- and Active Learn Digital Service (front-of-class Student Books, lesson plans with differentiation ideas, worksheets and end-of-unit tests, exam skills PowerPoints)
- Revision Guides and Revision Workbooks.

[You can see sample materials online now.](#)

Other publishers looking towards getting their resources endorsed include:

- Hodder Education
- ZigZag Education.

You can find out more about endorsed resources at [www.edexcel.com/resources](http://www.edexcel.com/resources).

## **How can I find out more?**

You'll find the specification, sample assessment materials and support documents [on our website](#).

For queries, information and further support, get in touch with us:

020 7010 2186

teachinghistory@pearson.com

@Pearson\_History

If you're planning to teach our new GCSE (9–1) History specification, [sign up online to let us know](#) and we'll keep you updated on events, support materials, resources and more.