

Guidance on constructing a course

GCSE (9-1) History

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History (1H10)

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Introduction

The changes to the requirements for GCSE History specification mean that all schools will need to make changes to their current courses. For example, some will be teaching a thematic study for the first time, and many will be introducing medieval or early modern history to their GCSE course for the first time. This document is designed to suggest ways of finding pathways through the new Edexcel GCSE specification, including ways of finding links between topics to bring coherence to the overall course.

It is divided into two sections: one aimed at centres currently teaching a Modern World specification and one aimed at centres currently teaching a Schools History Project (SHP) specification.

It should be noted that these suggestions are for content combinations only. The separate Course Planner provides guidance on planning the course over two or three years, and the different ways in which the options could be ordered.

For current Modern World teachers

Suggestion 1

This pathway has significant continuity with the previous Modern World specification, including the Blitz, the Cold War, and Weimar and Nazi Germany. The two new elements for this centre – the thematic study and British depth study – allow for some period and geographical links between the medieval content of Warfare and British society and the Norman invasion in the British depth study (while avoiding direct overlap). Links can also be made between Papers 2 and 3 about both the domestic and foreign policies of the USA in the second half of the 20th century.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Warfare and British society, c1250–present and London and the Second World War, 1939–45	Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91	Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88	Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Suggestion 2

This pathway allows for the development of period and geographical links between the specification content of Warfare and British Society with the British depth study. The period study has significant overlap with the previous Modern World specification and the modern depth study was a previous Controlled Assessment option. Thematic links of political ideologies in the 20th century can be made between Superpower Relations and Mao's China.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Warfare and British society, c1250–present and London and the Second World War, 1939–45	Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91	The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216	Mao's China, 1945–76

Suggestion 3

This pathway has some continuity with the previous Modern World specification, with the Western Front and Cold War, as well as controlled assessment on USA and Vietnam. Geographical and period links can be made between the early specification content of Medicine through time with Henry VIII and his ministers in the British depth study. Thematic links can also be made between Papers 2 and 3 about both the domestic and foreign policies of the USA in the second half of the 20th century.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.	Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91	Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40	The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

Suggestion 4

This pathway has continuity with the previous Modern World Specification for centres which offered Crime and Punishment, USA and Vietnam as Controlled Assessment units. There are geographical and period links between the Thematic and British depth studies. The Conflict in the Middle East and the USA studies are linked by the theme of the role of the USA in the second half of the 20th century.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.	Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95	Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88	The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

Suggestion 5

This pathway offers continuity with the previous Modern World Specification for centres which offered as examination or Controlled Assessment units Crime, Cold War or Russia. There are geographical and period links between the Thematic and British depth studies. The Superpower relations and Russia studies are linked by the theme of the USSR in the 20th century.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.	Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91	Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88	Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41

Suggestion 6

This pathway provides some continuity with the previous specification in the study of Weimar and Nazi Germany. Thematic links can be found between the modern depth study and the period study in terms of the treatment of minorities. The period study and the British depth study allow for themes of invasion and conquest to be drawn out. British medieval history can be studied in the British depth study and in the early part of the thematic study.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.	The American West, c1835–c1895	Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88	Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

For current SHP teachers

Suggestion 1

This pathway gives significant continuity for schools offering Medicine and American West or Germany in the previous SHP specification. The thematic study has geographical links with the British depth study. The topics chosen for Paper 2 can be linked thematically with the concepts of invasion and conquest. The treatment of minorities is a thematic link between The American West and the modern depth study on Weimar and Nazi Germany.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.	The American West, c1835–c1895	Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88	Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Suggestion 2

This pathway gives some continuity with the previous SHP specification, with Medicine; and the USA topic draws on content from two popular Controlled Assessment topics. The Period Study and British depth study have been chosen to give period links for the early modern era.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.	Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555	Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88	The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

Suggestion 3

This pathway has significant continuity for schools offering Crime and punishment and American West or Germany in the previous SHP specification. The thematic study and the three topics chosen for Papers 2 and 3 can all be used to develop thematic links of changes in ways of life, conflict and the establishing of authority and control.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.	The American West, c1835–c1895	Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88	Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Suggestion 4

This pathway has period and geographical links between the thematic study and the British depth study. The period study and the modern depth study have thematic links of state authority and the nature of power. The modern depth study has continuity with a previous Controlled Assessment option.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Crime and punishment through time, c1000–present	British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution	Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40	Mao's China, 1945–76

Suggestion 5

This pathway has some continuity with the previous specification's Crime and Punishment unit. There are both chronological and geographical links with the Thematic study and the British Depth Study. The Paper 2 studies have a geographical link and a thematic link of conflict in the Middle East. The Period study and Modern depth both examine the international role of the USA.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.	Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95	The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216	The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

Suggestion 6

This pathway has some continuity with the previous SHP specification's unit on, Warfare. There are some chronological and geographical links between the thematic study and the British depth study. The modern depth study has clear links with the period study by giving students an understanding of Russia and the Soviet Union before the Cold War.

Paper 1	Paper 2		Paper 3
Thematic and historic environment	Period study	British depth	Modern depth
Warfare and British society, c1250–present and London and the Second World War, 1939–45	Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91	Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88	Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41