

# GCSE (9–1) History

## Key features

### A flexible specification with topics that teachers want to teach and students want to learn

- Maximum choice and flexibility with a broader and more interesting range of options for students to explore, with the right blend of new and familiar content.

### A manageable approach to the Historic Environment requirement

- Our sites stay the same for the lifetime of the specification.
- Each Historic Environment site is linked to a thematic study, so students only have to study four distinct areas instead of five.

### Clearer and more focused exam papers that better support students

- Clear questions and accessible language are used throughout the exams, so each student can understand what they're being asked to do.
- With three shorter papers, students are less likely to be affected by exam fatigue, and have more opportunities to show what they can do.
- Gradual ramping of demand throughout sections and papers encourages all students to engage with every part of the exams.
- With more minutes per mark on each paper, students have time to focus on showcasing their skills when answering the questions.

### Unbeatable support every step of the way

- Published resources available for every option and a huge range of free support.
- Expert help and advice from Mark Battye, your dedicated History Subject Advisor.

## Assessment at a glance

### Paper 1 – British Thematic Study with Historic Environment

✓ 52 marks ⚖️ 30% weighting ⌚ 1 hour 15 minutes

Choose one of the combinations below.

Thematic Study (20%)	Historic Environment (10%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000 to present</li> <li>Medicine in Britain, c1250 to present</li> <li>Warfare and British society, c1250 to present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whitechapel, c1870–1900: crime, policing and the inner city</li> <li>The British sector of the Western Front: injuries, treatment and the trenches, 1914–18</li> <li>London and the Second World War, 1939–45</li> </ul>

Paper 2 covers both British depth studies and period studies to act as a chronological and geographical 'bridge' between Paper 1 and Paper 3.

### Paper 2 – Period Study and British Depth Study

✓ 64 marks ⚖️ 40% weighting ⌚ 1 hour 45 minutes

Choose one Period Study and one British Depth Study. All topic combinations are allowed.

Period Study (20%)	British Depth Study (20%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555</li> <li>British America 1713–83: empire and revolution</li> <li>The American West, c1835–c1895</li> <li>Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91</li> <li>Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88</li> <li>The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216</li> <li>Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40</li> <li>Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88</li> </ul>

Having Paper 3 solely on the non-British modern depth study enables students to focus on one era and explore how and why the historical interpretations of it differ.

### Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study

✓ 52 marks ⚖️ 30% weighting ⌚ 1 hour 20 minutes

Choose one of the topics below.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41</li> <li>Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mao's China, 1945–76</li> <li>The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad</li> </ul>
--	---



## Mapping documents from your current exam board

To help make the transition from your current exam board as easy and straightforward as possible, we have created these mapping documents for you to download:



## Past exam papers and mark schemes

We know how important it is to see examples of exam papers, questions and mark schemes when looking at switching exam boards.

You can download our most recent past papers and mark schemes below:

## Schemes of work for every topic

When it comes to planning, we provide support and resources to help you design your course and get ready to teach.

Use our interactive scheme of work to plan how you'll teach the content, including suggested topics, an idea of when to teach skills and how long to spend on each topic.

