



# FAQs for changes to Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 International GCSE History (9-1) (4HI1) May/June 2021

In response to the interim measures Ofqual has introduced to GCSE History to address any impact COVID-19 has had/will have on students taking their examination in 2021, we have made similar changes to the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) in History.

## The changes that have been made apply only to the May/June 2021 examination series only.

Below are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) that should help you understand what these changes mean for History.

### What are the changes to the qualification for May/June 2021 examinations?

Students will study and be assessed on 3 topics instead of 4 as follows:

**Option A** - Choose two topics in Paper 1 as usual and in Paper 2 choose one topic in Section A.

**Option B** - Choose one topic in Paper 1 and in Paper 2 choose two topics (one from Section A and one from Section B) as usual.

**Section A: Historical Investigation, in Paper 2, is compulsory in both options.**

**Teachers can therefore choose to drop EITHER one Paper 1 depth study OR the Paper 2 study in breadth.**

### How will the entry codes change?

We will provide new entry codes for the 2021 series as soon as possible.

### Are there any changes to the specification content for the summer 2021 assessment?

There are no changes to the content in the specification.

### Are there any changes to the assessment arrangements?

Students are assessed on three instead of normal four topics

Option A	Paper 1A (2 Depth Study topics)	60 Marks 1 hour 30 minutes
	Paper 2A (1 topic on Historical Investigation)	30 Marks 45 minutes
Option B	Paper 1B (1 Depth Study topic)	30 Marks 45 minutes
	Paper 2B (2 topics – 1 Historical Investigation & 1 breadth study in change)	60 Marks 1 hour 30 minutes

### **Do all my students have to choose the same options?**

No. There will be no requirement for all the students at a centre to be entered for the same options.

### **Paper 1A and 1B have different exam duration: why is that so?**

Students taking Paper 1A will answer 2 questions (1 hour 30 minutes) and students taking Paper 1B will answer 1 question only (45 minutes). We will confirm more details about examination arrangement as soon as possible.

### **Where can I find teaching and learning materials?**

Please go to [Teaching and learning materials](#) under the Course materials tab on the International GCSE History homepage. All our support materials remain valid, but please bear in mind that students are being assessed in 2021 on three of the four components only.

### **Will the question papers and mark schemes for summer 2021 be different to previous series?**

There are no changes to the questions or mark schemes.

### **Will grading be different for May/June 2021 because of these changes?**

Grades 1 to 9 will be awarded using the same process as in a normal examination series. We are currently working through details that'll take account of the amendment to the examination structure.

### **How will these changes affect students who are starting their International GCSEs in September 2020, but not sitting exams until 2022 (i.e. Year 10 students)?**

These changes have been agreed to support your Year 11 students whose studies have been disrupted by the period of school closures in the spring and summer of 2020, when they were in Year 10.

Those who are starting their International GCSE courses in September have not, so far, had these courses affected by school closures and so mitigation has not yet been considered.

The guidance, for now, is that these students should receive a near-as-normal experience as they embark on their International GCSEs. Should there be further public health incidents which lead to disruption for these students, then it is likely that guidance would then be issued separately for this cohort of students.

### **How do these changes affect the delivery of the specification for my Year 11 students?**

You may wish to review your scheme of work for Year 11, depending on which options you taught in Year 10 and which options are due to be delivered in Year 10.

**Where can I request more information if I have further questions?**

Please contact Mark Batty, our History subject advisor, [here](#).