GCSE and A level History qualifications summaries

GCSE


The most popular options may be:

- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present with The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (Paper codes: 1H10/10–12)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%* of the qualification</td>
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<tr>
<td>52 marks (16 for the historic environment, 36 for the thematic study)</td>
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Content overview

Students take one of the following options:

- **10**: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present
  and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
- **11**: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present
  and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
- **12**: Warfare and British society, c1250–present
  and London and the Second World War, 1939–45.

Assessment overview

**Section A: historic environment**

Students answer a question that assesses knowledge plus a two-part question based on two provided sources.

**Section B: thematic study**

Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students answer one from a choice of two.
### Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

**Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes**

40%* of the qualification

64 marks (32 for the period study and 32 for the British depth study)

**Content overview**

Students take one of the following British depth study options:

- **B1**: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
- **B2**: The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216
- **B3**: Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40

Students also take one of the following period study options:

- **20/21**: Spain and the ‘New World’, c1490–c1555
- **22/23**: British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution
- **24/25**: The American West, c1835–c1895
- **26/27**: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
- **28/29**: Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95.

### Assessment overview

**Section A: Period study**

Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students select two out of three parts.

**Section B: British depth study**

Students answer a single three-part question that assesses their knowledge and understanding. The first two parts are compulsory. For the third part, students select one from a choice of two.

### Paper 3: Modern depth study

**Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes**

30%* of the qualification

52 marks

**Content overview**

Students take one of the following modern depth studies:

- **30**: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41
- **31**: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39
- **32**: Mao’s China, 1945–76
- **33**: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad.

**Assessment overview**

**Section A**

Students answer a question based on a provided source and a question that assesses their knowledge and understanding.

**Section B**

Students answer a single four-part question, based on two provided sources and two provided interpretations.
A level


The most popular units are:

1E – Russia; then 1F USA; 1G Germany; 1H Britain

35.2 – British Empire; then 36.2 Britain and Ireland; 31 Tudors
**Paper 2: Depth study**

*Paper codes: 9HI0/2A–2H*

- Externally assessed.
- Availability: May/June.

**Overview of content**

Students take one** of the following options:

2A.1: Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053–1106
2A.2: England and the Angevin Empire in the reign of Henry II, 1154–89
2B.1: Luther and the German Reformation, c1515–55
2B.2: The Dutch Revolt, c1563–1609
2C.1: France in revolution, 1774–99
2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924
2D.1: The unification of Italy, c1830–70
2D.2: The unification of Germany, c1840–71
2E.1: Mao’s China, 1949–76
2E.2: The German Democratic Republic, 1949–90
2F.1: India, c1914–48: the road to independence
2F.2: South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to ‘rainbow nation’
2G.1: The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46
2G.2: Spain, 1930–78: republicanism, Francoism and the re-establishment of democracy
2H.1: The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery
2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

**Overview of assessment***

- Written examination, lasting 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Marks available: 40
- Students answer two questions: one from Section A and one from Section B.
- **Section A** comprises one compulsory question for the option studied, based on two sources. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2).
- **Section B** comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth (AO1).
Overview of content

Students take one** of the following options:

30: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509
31: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603
32: The Golden Age of Spain, 1474–1598
33: The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–c1750
34.1: Industrialisation and social change in Britain, 1759–1928: forging a new society
34.2: Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939
35.1: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914
35.2: The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918
36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928
36.2: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923
37.1: The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991: perception and reality
37.2: Germany, 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited
38.1: The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991
38.2: The making of modern China, 1860–1997
39.1: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009
39.2: Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004

Overview of assessment***

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes.
- Marks available: 60
- Students answer three questions: one from Section A, one from Section B and one from Section C.
- Section A comprises one compulsory question for the option studied, assessing source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2).
- Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth (AO1).
- Section C comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in breadth (AO1).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>*Paper code: 9HI0/04</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Internally assessed, externally moderated.</td>
<td>20% of the total qualification</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Availability: May/June.</td>
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<td>• First moderation: 2017.</td>
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**Overview of assessment**

- Students complete a single assignment on a question set by the centre.
- The assignment will assess the ability to carry out a historical enquiry, analysing and evaluating historical interpretations, and organising and communicating the findings (AO1/AO3).