

Planning for the future A-level History curriculum

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Why plan now for future reform?

- Impact of recent publications on school and university history, particularly in terms of issues of race and representation on the curriculum
- Currently mid-cycle, allowing time for a considered approach to future reform
- An opportunity to incorporate recent historical scholarship in to school history

AQA History curriculum project

Aim

Consider how to incorporate recent historical thinking (as appropriate to the study) relating to themes such as:

- Empire, colonisation and decolonisation
- Trade and the trade in enslaved peoples
- Migration, and the experience and perception of migrants and refugees

Scope

- A-level History only
- Initial focus on British/UK History topics, with other topics considered in future

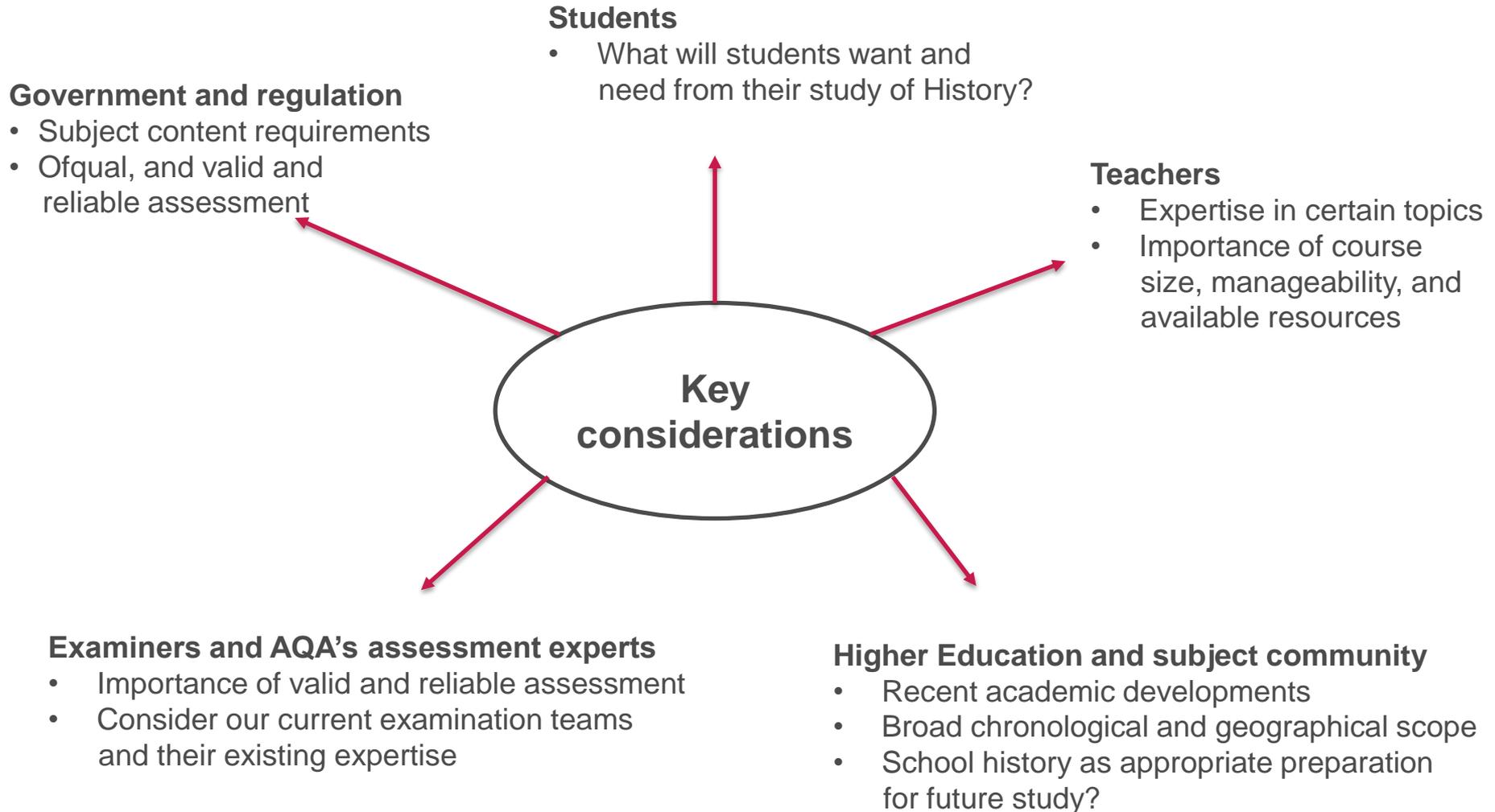
AQA History curriculum project

Two approaches are proposed:

- Explore possibilities for revising a selection of popular British/UK history topics, both in terms of content and structure
- Explore the creation of new British/UK history topics

NOTE: This project has been devised in preparation for future reform at A-level, and will **not** impact on the current specification or examinations.

A-level History: Key perspectives and considerations



Criteria for inclusion

The histories to be included must:

- be meaningful, examinable and avoid tokenism.
- avoid a focus on ethnic minorities as victims, where they are portrayed as having little agency in events
- be adaptable, so as to meet future DfE subject content
- be manageable in terms of size and ensure comparability between optional topics
- acknowledge the current expertise of teachers. The teaching community must not feel de-professionalised.

AQA GCSE History – ‘Migration, Empires and the people...’

Part one: Conquered and conquerors

- Invasion: Vikings and Anglo-Saxons; reasons for Viking invasions; creation of the Danelaw; Alfred and Wessex; King Cnut, Emma of Normandy and the North Sea Empire.
- A Norman Kingdom and ‘Angevin’ Empire: relationship between England and France; Henry II; invasion of Ireland; losses under King John.
- The birth of English identity: the Hundred Years’ War and its impact for England’s future development.

Part two: Looking west

- Sugar and the Caribbean: piracy and plunder; the development of the slave trade, including John Hawkins; settlements in Barbados and West Indies; the economic and social impact of the slave trade on Britain.
- Colonisation in North America: causes and consequences of British colonisation; Raleigh; Jamestown; contact and relations with indigenous peoples; commodities; Pilgrim Fathers; indentured servants; the War of Independence, loss of American colonies.
- Migrants to and from Britain: Huguenot migration; Highland clearances; the Ulster plantations.

AQA GCSE History – ‘Migration, Empires and the people...’

Part three: Expansion and empire

- Expansion in India: causes and impact of British control; East India Company; Robert Clive; Warren Hastings; Indian Rebellion (1857); the social, political, cultural and economic impact of empire on Britain and India.
- Expansion in Africa: causes and impact of British involvement; trade and missionary activity; South Africa; Egypt; the Scramble for Africa; Cecil Rhodes; the Boer War (1899–1902); imperial propaganda.
- Migrants to, from and within Britain: Irish migration to Britain; Jewish migration to Britain; transportation; migration to and within the Empire, including migration of Asians to Africa; migration from rural to urban settings.

Part four: Britain in the 20th century

- The end of Empire: the impact of the First and Second World Wars; the impact of Suez; nationalism and independence in India and Africa, including the role of Gandhi, Nkrumah and Kenyatta.
- The legacy of Empire: ‘Windrush’ and the Caribbean migrants; the work of Claudia Jones in the UK; migration from Asia and Africa, including the role of Amin in Uganda; the Commonwealth; the Falklands War.
- Britain’s relationship with Europe and its impact: the impact of the Second World War; economic, social and cultural interaction; the end of the Cold War and membership of European Union; European and non-European migration.

Example of potential future revision to our *Tudor England* topic

Working with a team of RHS affiliated academics, we have been developing different versions of this very popular A-level breadth study that address themes relating to the impact of themes such as trade, colonisation, and migration on Tudor England as part of the course of study. An example from a recent draft is shown below:

- **Engagement with the wider world:** broadening trade routes under Henry VIII; links with West Africa; trade with Asia and Far East; interest in the Americas; broadening trade routes and growth of trading companies under Elizabeth; exploration, and discovery; piracy; the development of the trade in enslaved people; attempts at American colonisation; development of plantations in Ireland
- **Migration and the impact of broadening horizons on England:** West Africans and Moors in early Tudor England; entrepreneurship and the influence of the wider world; perceptions and experiences of immigrants and foreign people in England

Next steps

- Continue revision of chosen topics, with consideration given to non-British topics
- Engagement with teachers and students when schools re-open
- Further engagement with interested colleagues from Higher Education

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