

# HISTORY

## KS4 (AQA GCSE History)

### Curriculum Purpose

History GCSE - Enables students to study different aspects of the past, so they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and how the past influences the present. History GCSE study helps students gain new insights into the world around them. Building on the skills and topics at Key Stage 3, our GCSE course equips students with essential skills to prepare them for further study. History teaches us about the world in which we live today, who we are, where we come from and asks why? It is the memories of the past that provide a sense of identity, culture and a sense of the community we live in. History is a challenging & interesting subject, which deals with big issues like power, discrimination and war. It can inspire students' curiosity about the past in Britain and around the world. Through the study of History, students are able to comprehend and understand the enormity of past events and the influence it has on their lives in modern-day Britain. It helps them to develop respect, appreciate diversity and to understand more about themselves and the impact they can have on society. Students have the opportunity to use knowledge of historic events to influence their personal choices, attitudes and values they hold. History allows students to learn from past events, to ensure that past mistakes are used positively to improve society, but also to draw inspiration from those who have had a positive impact around the world.

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### Course Content and Skill Development

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. GCSE History students must take assessments in both of the following papers in the same series: The GCSE History content comprises the following elements:

- one period study
- one thematic study
- one wider world depth study
- one British depth study including the historic environment.



## Paper I: Understanding the modern world

### Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different states and individuals and the ideologies they represented. It considers the role of nationalist movements in causing and sustaining conflict. It focuses on the causes and events of the Cold War in Asia and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the tensions which arose. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change, as well as how they were affected by and influenced international relations.

#### Part one: Conflict in Korea

- The causes of the Korean War: nationalism in Korea; US relations with China; the division of Korea; Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee; reasons why the North invaded the South in June 1950; US and the UN responses; USSR's absence from the UN.
- The development of the Korean War: the UN campaign in South and North Korea; Inchon landings and recapture of South Korea; UN forces advance into North Korea; reaction of China and intervention of Chinese troops October 1950; the sacking of MacArthur.
- The end of the Korean War: military stalemate around the 38th Parallel; peace talks and the armistice; impact of the Korean War for Korea, the UN and Sino-American relations.

#### Part two: Escalation of conflict in Vietnam

- The end of French colonial rule: Dien Bien Phu and its consequences; Geneva Agreement, 1954; civil war in South Vietnam; opposition to Diem; the Vietcong – aims, support, leadership and guerrilla tactics and Ho Chi Minh.
- The US involvement: the Domino Theory; intervention under Eisenhower and Kennedy; Strategic Hamlets programme.
- Johnson's War: the Gulf of Tonkin; the US response to Vietcong tactics; the mass bombing campaign; demands for peace and growing student protests in the USA; My Lai and its public impact; Search and Destroy tactics and impact; the Tet Offensive and its consequences for the war.

#### Part three: The ending of conflict in Vietnam

- Nixon's War: Vietnamisation; chemical warfare; bombing campaign of 1970–1972; relations with China; widening of the war into Laos and Cambodia.
- Opposition to war: Kent State University; the importance of the media and TV in influencing public opinion; the context of the Watergate affair.
- The end of the war: the Paris Peace talks; the role of Kissinger; the US withdrawal; fall of Saigon; the price of conflict; problems of Vietnam in 1975.



## Paper 2: Shaping the nation

### Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

This option allows students to study in depth a specified period, the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and arising contemporary and historical controversies.

#### Part one: Elizabeth's court and Parliament

- Elizabeth I and her court: background and character of Elizabeth I; court life, including patronage; key ministers.
- The difficulties of a female ruler: relations with Parliament; the problem of marriage and the succession; the strength of Elizabeth's authority at the end of her reign, including Essex's rebellion in 1601.

#### Part two: Life in Elizabethan times

- A 'Golden Age': living standards and fashions; growing prosperity and the rise of the gentry; the Elizabethan theatre and its achievements; attitudes to the theatre.
- The poor: reasons for the increase in poverty; attitudes and responses to poverty; the reasons for government action and the seriousness of the problem.
- English sailors: Hawkins and Drake; circumnavigation 1577–1580, voyages and trade; the role of Raleigh.

#### Part three: Troubles at home and abroad

- Religious matters: the question of religion, English Catholicism and Protestantism; the Northern Rebellion; Elizabeth's excommunication; the missionaries; Catholic plots and the threat to the Elizabethan settlement; the nature and ideas of the Puritans and Puritanism; Elizabeth and her government's responses and policies towards religious matters.
- Mary Queen of Scots: background; Elizabeth and Parliament's treatment of Mary; the challenge posed by Mary; plots; execution and its impact.
- Conflict with Spain: reasons; events; naval warfare, including tactics and technology;

#### Specification Link

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/specifications/AQA-8145-SP-2016.PDF>



## When and how assessment of learning will happen

Students are assessed via an 'End of Topic Assessment' at the end of each topic. There is one formal set of mock exams at the end of year 10 (June), followed by two formal mock exam sessions during year 11.

Self and peer assessment will happen regularly in lessons. Students will engage with exam style assessment activities in most lessons. Some independent learning tasks will also be formatively assessed.

## The final exams/ assessment:

At the end of year 11

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

Written exam: 2 hours

- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- 50% of the GCSE

Paper 2: Shaping the nation

Written exam: 2 hours

- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- 50% of the GCSE

## Home Learning Expectations

Students will complete exam style essay questions regularly as independent tasks. They will be required to extend their research and learning beyond the classroom via a variety of mediums e.g. websites, films, webinars, podcasts etc...

Students will need to consolidate their notes and develop effective revision strategies. They should also complete examination style questions and self-assess these against the published mark schemes.

## Useful Information

Students will be issued with text books for the course. They will be joined to a Google Classroom in which all lesson resources will be stored. There will also be access to extended research and information via the Google Classroom.