

What will the assessments look like?

Your child will take three exams at the end of the course.

Paper 1 – British Thematic Study with Historic Environment

Paper 2 – Period Study and British Depth Study

Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study

The assessments are designed for students of all abilities with a mixture of short- and long-answer questions. Questions will focus on a variety of historical areas, such as what happened, why things happened, the impact of key events, how far you agree with a view. Students also analyse historical sources and come up with ideas for tackling an historical investigation.

What can my child do after GCSE?

GCSE History is a great basis for many A level subjects and it is highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers.

Students who have studied history often study A Level qualifications in subjects such as English, politics, economics and sociology. Some students enjoy it so much they carry on with it even if they are studying maths or science subjects.

Many people working in law and accountancy have studied history because of the skills that can be developed in reasoning and arguing your point. There are also many areas more directly related to history, such as travel and tourism, museums and libraries, the media industry, government research and, of course, history teaching.

Next steps

Find out more about the course at
www.edexcel.com/studyhistory

Parent guide to studying GCSE History



British Depth Study

Why was Anne Boleyn executed in 1536?

Medieval and early modern depth studies such as **Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, the reigns of King Richard I and King John, Henry VIII** and **Elizabethan England** offer an insight into key moments in our history. Students have the opportunity to study, in depth, some of the key individuals, events and situations that have helped shape Britain.

Period Study

How did the British government punish pirates in the early eighteenth century?

With the Period Study, students have the chance to study ideologies and civilisations that have shaped the world we live in today. Topics such as **Spain and the 'New World', British America, the American West, the Cold War and Conflict in the Middle East** reflect the wide diversity of human experience and provide students with an opportunity to explore societies and cultures different from their own.

Modern Depth Study

How did Hitler establish a Nazi dictatorship in the years leading up to the Second World War?

Students learn about another nation's history in depth, exploring the complexity of a society or historical situation. Depth studies on offer include modern Russia, Germany, China and the USA and include events and individuals of huge historical significance such as the **Russian Revolution, Hitler, Mao and the US civil rights movement.**

'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'

George Santayana

Why study GCSE History?

History is fascinating. Studying it will feed your child's curiosity about the world and help them to understand today's cultures and world events through what they have learnt about the past.

Studying the subject will help your child to develop valuable life skills, such as analysis, evaluation and discussion, regardless of the path they follow.

What topics will my child study?

Your child's school decides which topics are studied, but the course must cover the following four areas.

British Thematic Study with Historic Environment

How have attitudes to the punishment of criminals changed over time?

Students will study a broad sweep of history from medieval Britain to the present day. Themes such as **crime and punishment, medicine or warfare** give students the opportunity to study fascinating individuals and events, such as the Black Death (1348-49), Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt (1415), or Matthew Hopkins and the witch hunts of 1645-47.

Students also delve deeper into the theme by learning about a particular place at particular moment in history – for example, discovering the conditions in Whitechapel at the time of Jack the Ripper, how injuries were sustained and treated in the trenches, or what life was like during the London Blitz.