



# **HISTORY GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE**

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11. The GCSE requires students to complete four separate units of study, which will be examined through two written examinations.

## **END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT**

### **Paper 1: Understanding the modern world**

Duration: 2 hours - 50% of GCSE

84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

- One period study: America 1840 - 1895
- One wider world depth study: Conflict and tension in Asia 1950-1975

### **Paper 2: Shaping the nation**

Duration: 2 hours - 50% of GCSE

84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

- One thematic study: Health and the People c1000 - present day
- One British depth study: Norman England 1066 - 1100

## **SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:**

-Visit to the Imperial War Museum, London (Year 9)

-Visit to a historical site linked to the focus of the British depth study unit (site selected annually by AQA) (Year 11)

## **SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY HISTORY?**

People who study history are essentially explorers of the past. They investigate past societies, cultures, health, education, conflicts and much more. They look at how things have developed over time and connect the dots to understand how we got where we are today. Studying history can also be inspiring. When we discover what people have achieved against the odds and how things can change over time, it can give us the motivation we need to succeed.

### ***What will my child gain from history?***

History is well-respected because of the in-depth knowledge that pupils gain, and the transferable skills that pupils develop. Skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and prioritise information is vital to decision making. This not only provides a skills set, but it also keeps career options open.

Above all, history teaches us to ask two very important questions: why and how. This develops critical thinking abilities, which combine analysis, research, extended writing and communication skills to help solve problems and form arguments.

### ***Where will history take my child?***

With analytical, writing and detective skills, pupils will be suited to a huge range of careers in law, politics, the public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, teaching, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curation (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).

## **Further reading/ suggested revision materials:**

Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1): Conflict and Tension in Asia  
1950-1975 Revision Guide.

Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1): Norman England c1066-  
c1100 Revision Guide.

Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1): Britain: Health and the  
People c1000-Present Day Revision Guide.

**For further information, please contact:**

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