



HISTORY GCSE

Ofsted said: Leaders ensure that teaching is consistently of a high quality across the curriculum.” May 2026

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: Russia c1894-1945 (Tsardom and communism)
- One wider world depth study: Conflict and tension in Asia c1950-1975 (Korean and Vietnam Wars)

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 c1066 - 1100

SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

Visit to a historical site/visit from an educational school tour company linked to the focus of either our study of Norman England, or our study of Health and the People (Year 10).

Extra-curricular revision classes are offered from the beginning of Year 11 to assist with the learning of history pupils.

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 robust set of skills, but it also keeps career options wide open.

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

Where will history take my child?

With analytical, investigative and writing 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.

Hodder AQA GCSE (9-1) History: Russia, 1894-1945
Tsardom and Communism *myrevisionnotes*.

For further information, please contact:

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