



Respectful | Resilient | Resourceful | Responsible

CAISTOR YARBOROUGH ACADEMY

Supporting Your Child with GCSE Revision: History



Purpose of this Guide

This leaflet supports parents and carers in helping their child prepare effectively for GCSEs in History. It outlines key content, exam structures, and practical revision approaches that make a difference at home.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Key Period Studies

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present & The Western Front—explores how ideas about the causes of disease, prevention, and treatment have changed from medieval times to the modern day, including the impact of key individuals, discoveries, and medical developments during the First World War.

Henry VIII & His Ministers, 1509–1540—Students study how power and religion changed under Henry VIII, focusing on the roles of Wolsey and Cromwell, the Break with Rome, and the wider political and religious transformations of Tudor England.

The American West, 1835–1895—This topic examines the development of the American West, including the lives of the Plains Indians, the migration of settlers, the growth of towns, and the conflicts and changes that transformed the region.

The USA, 1954–1975: Conflict at Home and Abroad—investigates the **Civil Rights Movement** and the struggle for racial equality in the USA, alongside the country's **involvement in the Vietnam War** and the social and political tensions it created at home.



The Exam Element

Paper 1—Thematic Study and Historic Environment (1 hour 15 mins) **Medicine in Britain, c1250–present & The Western Front** – testing how medicine has developed over time and how medical care was delivered during World War I.

Paper 2—Period Study and British Depth Study (1 hour 45 mins) - **Henry VIII and His Ministers, 1509–1540** – assessed in *Paper 2* (part 1), focusing on Henry VIII's government, religion and the roles of Wolsey and Cromwell.

The American West, 1835–1895 – assessed in *Paper 2* (part 2), examining the settlement and development of the West, including conflict and change.

Paper 3—Modern Depth Study (1 hour 20) - **The USA, 1954–1975: Conflict at Home and Abroad** – testing understanding of the Civil Rights Movement and America's involvement in the Vietnam War through source and interpretation analysis.



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Examples of Revision Tools

Flashcards:

- Medicine in Britain – Key individuals (Jenner, Pasteur, Fleming), medical breakthroughs, and key dates.
- Henry VIII & His Ministers – Wolsey's reforms, Cromwell's role, and the Reformation.
- The American West – Plains Indian culture, Homestead Act, key figures (Joseph McCoy, John Iliff).
- Conflict in the USA – Civil Rights leaders (Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X), key acts (Civil Rights Act 1964), and Vietnam events.

Mind Maps:

- Medicine Through Time – Causes of disease, treatments, public health, and changing medical knowledge.
- The American West – Migration, settlement, conflict, law and order.
- Henry VIII & His Ministers – Political power, religion, and key events (Break with Rome).
- Conflict in the USA – Civil Rights vs. Vietnam War, protest movements, and public opinion.

Timelines:

- Medicine in Britain: Medieval → Renaissance → Industrial → Modern eras.
- The American West: 1835 (Plains Indian lifestyle) → 1862 (Homestead Act) → 1890 (Wounded Knee).
- Henry VIII: 1509 (Accession) → 1529 (Fall of Wolsey) → 1534 (Act of Supremacy) → 1540 (Execution of Cromwell).
- Conflict in the USA: 1954 (Brown v Board) → 1963 (March on Washington) → 1968 (Tet Offensive & Civil Rights Act).

How Parents Can Help

Ask your child to “teach back” key events — this strengthens memory.

Encourage timed past paper practice using Edexcel materials.

Support use of examiner reports for model answers.

Reinforce chronological understanding using timelines and mind maps.

Direct students to Educake (Homework platform), BBC Bitesize, GCSEPod, and reliable YouTube channels like Revise GCSE History and Mr Swift History.

Make use of Free AI platforms to help students create model answers for past questions & identify where marks have been awarded

