



Durham Johnston History A-level 2020

Key content: OCR History A

What will be required from me in the classroom?

Contribute to discussion, debate and be prepared to think. Be organised, committed and open to new ideas. Complete homework on time, ask for help if you are unsure and see constructive criticism of your writing as something that enables you to improve. Most importantly, try to enjoy your learning!

Unit 1 Y113: *Britain 1930–1997*
(Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930–1951).

Unit 2 Y213: *The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815.*

Unit 3 Y319: *Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992.*

Unit 4: Y100: An independent piece of research on Britain's domestic history or foreign relations 1945–97.

What will my teachers deliver for me?

Your teachers guarantee you a rigorous and informative A-level history course that may inspire some of you to study history at university. Lessons will be varied in style and will be based on thorough research of the latest secondary sources and the most-relevant primary material. Assessments will be set with fair prior warning, marked and returned within a week of them being completed.



Why has the department chosen to teach what they have?

The theme that ties the course together is the diverse challenges that faced different governments, societies and nations over a period of two centuries. We believe that the content is challenging, inspirational and of vital importance to understanding global and national historical developments of the past 250 years.

Why study History A-Level at Durham Johnston?

We provide students with an engaging, challenging and enjoyable course that gives students the opportunity to develop their evaluative skills, their research skills, their knowledge of fascinating periods of history and their ability to construct arguments. Each year, many of our students leave to study history at university, either in a single or joint honours degree.



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Congratulations for choosing A-level history. You have chosen an excellent academic subject and we hope you enjoy your post-16 studies. **To prepare you for the start of your A-level courses, you may want to read one or two of the books that have been recommended by us on the pages that follow.** Furthermore, the websites on this page are very good places to begin familiarising yourself with the subject content you will study in Year 12 in addition to getting into the habit of reading about history, frequently.

Get started!

<https://www.historytoday.com/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/historyandhistoryofart>

Year 12 British history

<https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom/Britain-since-1945>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers>

Year 12 French Revolution

<https://www.history.com/topics/france/french-revolution>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/french-revolution/>



<p>Unit 1</p> <p>British course (Y12)</p> <p>Sample exams from OCR: https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170324-unit-h505-y113-britain-1930-1997-sample-assessment-material.pdf</p>	<p>Roy Jenkins <i>Churchill</i></p> <p>John Bew <i>Citizen Clem</i></p> <p>Paul Addison <i>The Road to 1945</i></p> <p>David Kynaston <i>Austerity Britain. Family Britain. Social Britain</i></p> <p>Dominic Sandbrook <i>Never had it so good. White Heat. Seasons in the sun.</i></p> <p>Andy McSmith <i>No such thing as society.</i></p> <p>Richard Vinen <i>Thatcher's Britain.</i></p> <p>David Cannadine <i>Margaret Thatcher.</i></p> <p>Andrew Rawnsely <i>Servants of the People.</i></p> <p>Anthony Seldon <i>Blair Unbound.</i></p> <p>Peter Hennessy <i>The Prime Minister The Office and its Holders Since 1945.</i></p> <p>Niall Ferguson <i>Empire</i></p>	<p>Andrew Marr <i>A History of Modern Britain</i></p> <p>Marr is good to give a thorough overview of the post-war era in Britain. However, you may be better off choosing a specific prime minister or era to start your reading. Ferguson gives a somewhat controversial take on Britain's foreign policy, relevant to the final section of this course, which focuses on Britain's foreign relations and standing in the world after 1945.</p>
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<p>Unit 2</p> <p>French course (Y12)</p> <p>Sample exams from OCR: https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170337-unit-h505-y213-the-french-revolution-and-the-rule-of-napoleon-1774-1815-sample-assessment-material.pdf</p>	<p>Peter McPhee - <i>The French Revolution, 1789-99.</i></p> <p>Ruth Scurr - <i>Fatal Purity.</i></p> <p>Hilary Mantel - <i>A Place of Greater Safety.</i></p> <p>Andrew Roberts - <i>Napoleon the Great.</i></p>	<p>This brings together a variety of current research and goes through the revolution in a very clear, chronological way.</p> <p>An excellent biography of Robespierre and his influence on the most extreme phase of the revolution.</p> <p>Mantel is most famous for <i>Wolf Hall</i>, which won the Booker Prize. Prior to that, she used a range of historical documents and research to create a fictional account of the Revolution to 1794. The book offers a literary account of the ideas and personalities that dominated the revolution.</p> <p>This offers an excellent overview of Napoleon's rise to power and dominance in European affairs between 1799 and 1812.</p>
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<p>Unit 3</p> <p>American course (Y13)</p> <p>Sample exams from OCR: https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170313-unit-h505-y319-civil-rights-in-the-usa-1865-1992-sample-assessment-material.pdf</p>	<p>Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick <i>The untold history of the United States</i></p> <p>George Tindall and David Shi <i>America A Narrative History</i></p> <p>Robin Bunce and Laura Gallagher <i>Pursuing Life and Liberty: Equality in the USA 1945-68 (Consolidation and revision)</i></p> <p>Nigel Hamilton <i>American Caesars</i></p> <p>David Reynolds <i>Empire of Liberty</i></p>	<p>All of these books are very challenging, relevant and thorough. Tindall and Shi is encyclopaedic – if you can find it for a reduced price on the internet, it is certainly worth the investment. Hamilton and Reynolds' recent works are both excellent. Stone and Kuznick's TV adaptation of the book cited here would be worth investigating.</p>
<p>Unit 4</p> <p>Coursework is an essay of 4,000 words, and based on a topic from the British course. Submitted (final) April 2021.</p> <p>https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/572300-unit-y100-marking-guide-and-top-tips.pdf</p>	<p>See past coursework questions: <i>Assess the reasons for the Labour victory in the 1945 General Election.</i></p> <p><i>Assess the reasons for the Conservative party's electoral dominance 1951-64.</i></p> <p><i>'The Wilson government 1964-70 failed to achieve its aims.' How far do you agree?</i></p> <p><i>To what extent were the 1960s a decade of social revolution in Britain?</i></p> <p><i>Assess the reasons for the Conservative victory in the 1979 General Election.</i></p>	<p>This is a taught course but there is an expectation for students to conduct research independently. The extended coursework essay is a fantastic opportunity for students to select their own research topic and produce academic work that is unique to them. Continuous assessment such as this is an excellent grounding for university work such as formative and summative non-exam essays.</p>



	<p><i>'Margaret Thatcher's second term in office was her most transformative.'</i> <i>How far do you agree with this view?</i></p> <p><i>Assess the reasons for Labour's General Election victory in 1997.</i></p> <p><i>Assess the reasons for the changing attitudes of British governments towards Europe 1951-97.</i></p> <p><i>'Britain's relationship with the USA was close throughout the period from 1951 to 1997.'</i> How far do you agree?</p> <p><i>How far did Britain maintain its position as a major power in the period 1951-97?</i></p> <p><i>'The most important reason for decolonisation was the impact of the Second World War.'</i> How far do you agree?</p>	
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A-level exam breakdown May-June 2022 US Civil Rights 40% (Unit 3) Britain 25% (Unit 1) Coursework 20% (Unit 4) French 15% (Unit 2)	AS-level breakdown May 2021 Britain 50% French 50%	All modules are assessed for the full A-level. The AS-level, if you choose to take it, assesses Year 12's work which is the British and French content (units 1 and 2).
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