

GCSE HISTORY



The GCSE History course contains two different components each with 2 sections. Each component is assessed in one of two exams lasting 2 hours. Both exams will be at the end of year 11 and each is worth 50% of the marks.

Section A: Period Study Option 1B: USA 1920-1973 Opportunity and Inequality

This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a difficult half century of change. You will study the political, social and cultural aspects of these 2 developments and the role ideas played in bringing about change. The first part of this unit examines America in the 'boom' of the 1920s, covering the growth of the consumer society exemplified by the Ford motor company and social development. The second part of the unit focuses upon Americans' experiences of the Depression and the New Deal. Finally, we focus upon post-war America, with the return of consumerism and prosperity and the development of social tension and the civil rights movement. The study of the history of the world's only Superpower is vital for anyone who wishes to understand the world in which we live today.

Section B: Wider World depth study: Conflict and tension, 1918–1939

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complicated world of international relations-what are the diverse interests of different individuals and states? It focuses on the causes of the Second World War and why it proved difficult to resolve the issues which caused it. We start at the end of the First World War with the attempts to make a lasting peace from the ruins of a battered Europe. We examine the Treaty of Versailles, how the different countries involved felt the peace treaty, and how it could be seen as simply a ceasefire for 20 years. Finally, we examine the roles of Hitler, Stalin, and Neville Chamberlain in the outbreak of World War Two.

Component 2: Shaping the Nation.

Section A: Thematic study

Our thematic study will focus on the health of the British people over the last 1000 years. It focuses on understanding the reasons for the changes and continuity that take place over a long period of time as well how quickly or slowly that change happened. We'll also test if all of the change was for the better. We will also study the impact of people who have made significant impact on medicine though out the ages. This unit, at times can require a strong stomach, so if you like blood and guts in your history, this is the topic for you!

Section B: British depth study including the historical environment

This section allows us to study the arrival of the Normans and the impact of their rule on England. It includes 1066 and all that including all the major battles of that year as well as the very brutal methods William the Conqueror used in order to gain control of England. We will also look at what it was like to live under the Normans including the use of the Feudal system and the production of the Domesday Book. Within this depth study we will also focus on a specific historical site, named by the exam board, which is worth 10% of the total GCSE. We will develop an understanding of the key features of buildings of this type and understand what the relationship between the key events and sites were.

For further information, please see Mrs McCarthy