

GCSE HISTORY



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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.

Component 1: Wider World Study.

Section A: Period Study: 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, looking at the development of consumer goods such as 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, investigating 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. 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: Health and the People 1000AD to present day

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 as 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 throughout 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! As we are living through a pandemic at the moment the studying of this topic could not be more relevant!

Section B: British depth study including the historical environment: Elizabethan England 1533-1603

This section allows us to study Elizabethan England and the impact of her rule on England. It includes what role this first female monarch had, the challenges that she faced and how she resolved these.

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 contact Mrs McCarthy: cat.mccarthy@achs.svf.org.uk

