

History Department

Year 7 Assessment

In KS3 History, students follow the same assessment pattern each half term so they can build knowledge and skills step by step.

- **Homework 1** is based on disciplinary literacy and helps students practise key facts and develop historical vocabulary.
- **POP Task** (Proof of Progress) is an in-class task to check understanding. It is usually an **extended piece of writing**, but this can vary depending upon the topic and/or point in the year.
- **Homework 2** is designed to develop students' engagement with sources and interpretations, alongside the disciplinary skills of cause and consequence, change and continuity, and similarity and difference. This enables students to think critically and to write with the precision expected of historians.
- **End of Unit Test** is at the end of the first half-term. Students will complete a short, written test focused on key knowledge, chronology, and disciplinary literacy skills. This includes multiple-choice questions, short factual answers, and brief explanation tasks. The test is peer-marked in class using teacher guidance, helping pupils to reflect on their progress, correct misconceptions, and build exam technique in a low-stakes environment.
- **End of Term Test** brings everything together. It assesses the **content** and **skills** learned in the previous two half-terms. It is more challenging than the End of Unit Test and includes multiple choice questions, short knowledge questions, and longer written answers. This checks recall, explanation, and source analysis skills.

Autumn Term End of Unit Test (October)

As part of their History curriculum, your child has been studying two very different societies that existed at the same time during the early medieval period: Anglo-Saxon England and Abbasid Baghdad (Islamic Golden Age). This unit encourages students to compare and contrast the two, exploring themes such as religion, government, daily life, and learning.

Enquiry: How similar were Medieval Baghdad and Anglo-Saxon England?	
What has my child studied?	In summary, over the first half-term your child has studied: History Skills • Chronology and historical time – placing events in chronological order and confidently using dates, decades and centuries to locate events in the past. • Understanding historical periods – recognising how the past is divided into different periods and developing a sense of where these fit in relation to one another. • Using historical sources – understanding the difference between primary and secondary sources, making inferences and using evidence to investigate the past. • Historical interpretations – understanding what an interpretation is and recognising that historians may have different views about the same person, event or period. Anglo-Saxon England • The role and purpose of monasteries • The Viking raid on Lindisfarne: why it happened and how people explained it • Key features of daily life in Anglo-Saxon villages • The structure of leadership and religion in Anglo-Saxon society Abbasid Baghdad • The importance of Baghdad in the Islamic world • The role of the Caliph as both religious and political leader • The purpose and impact of the House of Wisdom

	• What made Baghdad a centre of learning, science, and trade • Key features of daily life in a large, urban Islamic city
What will the test include?	The test is knowledge-focused and peer-marked. It will contain: • Key vocabulary questions • Timeline sequencing (chronology) • Multiple-choice knowledge checks • Short factual recall questions Students are also developing their extended writing and source analysis skills in class and through homework — these will be assessed and marked separately and not part of this test.
Key Words	Top 12 Key Words for the Unit 1. Monastery – A Christian religious community where monks lived, prayed, and copied texts. 2. Caliph – The religious and political leader of the Islamic empire (Caliphate). 3. House of Wisdom – A major centre of learning in Baghdad where scholars studied and translated texts. 4. Scholar – A highly educated person who studies and produces knowledge. 5. Viking – Seafaring raiders from Scandinavia who attacked parts of Anglo-Saxon England. 6. Raid – A sudden and violent attack, especially by Vikings on monasteries and villages. 7. Empire – A group of lands or peoples ruled by one powerful leader or government. 8. Chronology – The order of events in time; placing dates and events in the correct sequence. 9. Primary Source – A piece of evidence from the time being studied, like a document, image, or object. 10. Interpretation – An opinion or explanation about the past, often written after the event based on evidence. There can be different interpretations about the same person/event. 11. Christianity – The religion followed in Anglo-Saxon England, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. 12. Islam – The religion followed in Abbasid Baghdad, based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.
Key Dates to Know	• 410: Romans leave Britain • 570: Birth of the Prophet Muhammad • 597: St Augustine sent to England • 762: Baghdad is founded • 793: Viking raid on Lindisfarne • 800s: House of Wisdom flourishing • 1066: Battle of Hastings – end of Anglo-Saxon rule
Useful Links	BBC Bitesize – Anglo Saxon England BBC Bitesize – Medieval Islamic Civilisations
How can my child revise?	Review class notes, knowledge organisers and glossary terms Practise answering quick-fire knowledge questions verbally or in writing Quiz using flashcards or online tools (e.g. Quizlet or printed cards) Recreate a timeline from memory and then check it Talk through the differences between the two societies using examples from class

Autumn End of Term Test (December)

Enquiry: Why was England a battlefield in 1066?	
What has my child studied?	The Norman Conquest • The succession crisis following the death of Edward the Confessor • The rival claims to the throne and why Harold was crowned • The invasions and battles of 1066, including Stamford Bridge and Hastings • Why William won, and how he took control of England • The introduction of the Feudal System, castles, and the Domesday Book
What will the test include?	The End of Term Test is more challenging than the End of Unit Test. It assesses both content knowledge and historical skills from the full term. The format includes: • Multiple-choice knowledge questions • Short-answer factual recall questions • A source-based question assessing analysis (AO3) • A short paragraph question testing comparison and explanation (AO1 + AO2) Students will receive teacher feedback after the test.
Key Words	Succession – The process of deciding who becomes the next ruler or king after someone dies. Claimant – A person who believes they have the right to the throne. Witan – A council of nobles who advised the Anglo-Saxon king and helped choose the next king. Harold Godwinson – Earl of Wessex and crowned King of England in 1066. William of Normandy – Duke of Normandy who claimed the English throne and won the Battle of Hastings. Harald Hardrada – Viking king of Norway who invaded England in 1066. Battle of Stamford Bridge – A battle in 1066 where Harold Godwinson defeated Harald Hardrada. Battle of Hastings – The decisive battle in 1066 where William defeated Harold. Feudal System – A system where the king gave land to nobles in return for loyalty and military service. Motte and Bailey Castle – A wooden castle built quickly by the Normans to control the land. Domesday Book – A great survey ordered by William to record land ownership and wealth in England. Conquest – Taking control of a country or land by force. Primary Source – Evidence created during the time being studied (e.g. a document, object, or image). Interpretation – A historian's opinion or explanation of the past, based on evidence.
Key Dates to Know	Death of Edward the Confessor - His death on the 5th January 1066 triggered the succession crisis that led to the events of 1066 Battle of Stamford Bridge – A battle fought in September 1066, where Harold Godwinson defeated Harald Hardrada. William of Normandy arrived in England - 28th September 1066. He landed at Pevensey on the south coast, just days after Harold Godwinson had defeated Harald Hardrada at the

	Battle of Stamford Bridge. This gave William time to set up camp and prepare for the Battle of Hastings, which took place on 14th October 1066 Battle of Hastings – A decisive battle fought on 14th October 1066, where William defeated Harold Godwinson.
Useful Links	BBC Bitesize – Anglo Saxon England BBC Bitesize – Medieval Islamic Civilisations BBC Bitesize – Norman England
How can my child revise?	• Review knowledge organisers and vocabulary from class • Recreate a timeline of 1066 and label key events • Quiz with flashcards or use online tools (Quizlet, BBC Bitesize) • Practise writing short paragraph answers using key words • Revisit sources studied in class and explain what they show • Use sentence starters like <i>“This source suggests...”</i> or <i>“William won because...”</i> • Discuss with someone at home: <i>“Who should have been king in 1066, and why?”</i>