

History Department

Year 8 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** focuses on using sources and interpretations or skills such as cause and consequences, change and continuity or judging significance, encouraging students to think and write like 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 Year 8 History curriculum, your child has been studying Elizabethan England and the English Civil War. These two units have been deliberately paired. Although they are about two different monarchs in different centuries, they build a clear narrative of how power, religion and government has changed over time.

Enquiry: How successfully did Elizabeth I overcome the challenges of her reign? (1558-1603)	
What has my child studied?	Elizabethan England • Who Elizabeth Tudor was, and the problems she faced as queen (religion, poverty, foreign threats). • The Religious Settlement (1559): why it was needed and how different groups reacted. • The threat from Mary, Queen of Scots. • The Spanish Armada (1588): why it was a danger and how Elizabeth defeated it. • Elizabeth's image and propaganda – portraits, progresses, and public appearances. • The "Golden Age": culture, exploration, and society. • Elizabeth's attempts to deal with poverty and the poor laws. • Final judgement: Was Elizabeth a strong and successful monarch?
What will the test include?	The test is knowledge-focused and peer-marked. It will contain: • Key vocabulary questions • Chronology of key events in Elizabeth's reign • 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. Religious Settlement – Elizabeth’s compromise between Catholics and Protestants (1559). 2. Puritan – A strict Protestant who wanted to “purify” the Church of England. 3. Excommunication – When the Pope expelled Elizabeth from the Catholic Church (1570). 4. Armada – The Spanish naval fleet sent to invade England in 1588. 5. Propaganda – Messages/images used to promote a ruler or idea. 6. Progresses – Royal tours Elizabeth made around the country. 7. Poverty – The condition of being extremely poor; a key problem in Elizabethan England. 8. Vagabond – Homeless and unemployed people who wandered from place to place. 9. “Golden Age” – The idea that Elizabeth’s reign was a time of great achievements in culture and exploration.
Key Dates to Know	• 1558 – Elizabeth becomes queen • 1559 – Religious Settlement • 1568 – Mary, Queen of Scots flees to England • 1570 – Elizabeth excommunicated by the Pope • 1587 – Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots • 1588 – Spanish Armada defeated
Useful Links	BBC Bitesize – Elizabethan England National Archives – Elizabeth I resources
How can my child revise?	• Review class notes and knowledge organisers. • Quiz key words and dates using flashcards. • Create a timeline of Elizabeth’s reign. • Practise writing a short paragraph: “How successful was Elizabeth I as a monarch?” with evidence of successes and failures

Autumn End of Term Test (December)

Enquiry: Did anyone really win the English Civil War? (1640-1688)	
What has my child studied?	The English Civil War • Causes of the Civil War: religion, money, power struggles between King and Parliament. • The sides: Roundheads vs Cavaliers – their strengths and weaknesses. • Key battles: Edgehill (1642) and Marston Moor (1644). • The New Model Army – why it was important. • Why Charles I lost the war. • The trial and execution of Charles I – arguments for and against. • Oliver Cromwell – hero or villain? • The Restoration of the monarchy (1660): what problems were solved, and what remained.
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 questions

	• Short factual answers (AO1) • A cause and consequence question (AO2) • A source-based question on Civil War propaganda or trial of Charles I • Extended written answer (judgement: e.g. “Was Cromwell a hero or a villain?”) Students will receive teacher feedback after the test.
Key Words	1. Parliament – The law-making body that clashed with Charles I. 2. Civil War – A war between people of the same country. 3. Roundheads – Supporters of Parliament, often from towns and cities. 4. Cavaliers – Supporters of the king, often nobles and landowners. 5. New Model Army – A disciplined, professional army formed by Parliament in 1645. 6. Regicide – The execution of a king. 7. Republic – A country without a monarch, led instead by representatives. 8. Restoration – The return of the monarchy under Charles II in 1660.
Key Dates to Know	• 1642 – Civil War begins (Battle of Edgehill) • 1644 – Battle of Marston Moor • 1645 – New Model Army created • 1649 – Trial and execution of Charles I • 1660 – Monarchy restored under Charles II
Useful Links	BBC Bitesize – Causes of the English Civil War History Learning Site – English Civil War
How can my child revise?	• Review both HT1 and HT2 knowledge organisers side by side. • Recreate a timeline from 1558–1660 and practise sequencing key events. • Quiz key words and dates using flashcards. • Compare Elizabeth I and Charles I: what problems did they face, and how well did they deal with them? • Practise writing short PEEL paragraphs for judgement questions (e.g. “Elizabeth was more successful than Charles I because...”). • Revisit sources studied in class and practise using phrases such as “This source suggests...” or “This is useful because...”.