



# West Hill School History Department

## A Parent's Guide to GCSE History

The History team at West Hill School greatly value parental support in helping our boys achieve their full potential. We would like to thank you for everything you have done so far to help secure your son's achievement in GCSE History.

We truly believe that there is always more we can do. Please find details below of how you can support your son to raise his attainment further. We have set out the information in a FAQs format to enable you to find the required information easily.

### **What History specification is my son following?**

Pearson Edexcel GCSE grade 1-9.

### **Which exam papers will my son sit?**

Your son will sit three papers. There is no controlled assessment element.

<b>Paper 1- Medicine in Britain 1250- present &amp; The British sector of the Western Front.</b>	<b>Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88</b>	<b>Paper 3: Germany 1918-39</b>
1 hour and 15 minutes 52 marks 30% of the qualification	55 minutes 32 marks 40% of the qualification*	1 hour and 20 minutes 52 marks 30% of the qualification
<p><b>What is assessed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical knowledge and understanding.</li> <li>• The ability to explain and analyse historical events and periods.</li> <li>• The ability to analyse, evaluate and make substantiated judgements about sources and interpretations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What is assessed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical knowledge and understanding.</li> <li>• The ability to explain and analyse historical events and periods.</li> </ul> <p>*Information correct as of October 2020</p>	<p><b>What is assessed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical knowledge and understanding.</li> <li>• The ability to explain and analyse historical events and periods.</li> <li>• The ability to analyse, evaluate and make substantiated judgements about sources and interpretations in the context of Germany 1918-39</li> </ul>

### **When are my son's History exams?**

Paper 1 – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (afternoon)

Paper 2 – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (morning)

Paper 3 - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (morning)

Note: at present, these dates are **provisional**.

### **What intervention is available from the History team?**

We may offer intervention sessions during the academic year. You will be notified via letter and School Comms if your son is to attend these sessions.

### **What revision tools are available to my son?**

- The most vital revision tool is your son's classbook. Please encourage him to use his class work as part of structured revision. Classbooks have excellent notes, extended writing tasks, exemplars, case-studies and personalised teacher feedback. This is not always available through external revision materials.
- CGP revision guides. These contain notes, diagrams and short tests. CGP revision guides are available through school for £3.95. Please contact your son's History teacher if you would like to purchase a copy.
- The boys have created some excellent revision resources in lessons and at home.
- The PiXL app. There are some excellent quizzes and mini tests. All boys have personalised log ins.
- GCSE Bitesize website. Newly updated to support the specification. It contains some excellent clips, diagrams, information and tests.
- History materials on the West Hill VLE.

### **What can I do at home with my son to support his achievement?**

Below are suggestions of ideas that may help your son achieve his potential in History. The list is not exhaustive and not meant as a checklist, but as inspiration.

- Check your son has completed History homework fully. The vast majority of homework are exam questions, revision tasks – making revision cards, key word lists... The purpose of these is to revise past topics and skills along the way and to reduce exam pressure in June.
- Insist your son always writes with excellent spelling, punctuation and grammar – these marks account for 5% of his final exam result. Please be aware that the use of specialist terms is also assessed in these marks e.g. '*physicians*' instead of doctors
- The new GCSE requires excellent knowledge of dates and events - please test your son.
- Help your son to devise a revision timetable. Examples are available; please contact your son's History teacher.
- Add intervention sessions to the family calendar as and when necessary.
- Encourage him to actively use the History VLE. All lessons, resources and materials are on there.
- Encourage him to actively use the PiXL History app.
- Encourage him actively engage in the BBC Bitesize webpages

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact us should you or your son have any concerns about the forthcoming History exams.**

