



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

OCR offers the following History qualifications (the links give access to the full specifications, sample papers and support materials):

[GCSE History A](#): Explaining the Modern World

[GCSE History B](#): Schools History Project (SHP). This qualification was written and is supported in partnership with the [Schools History Project](#)

[A Level History](#)

Brief synopses of these qualifications:

GCSE History A (pages 2-3 of this document): 50% British and 50% non-British history. For the non-British side, all students study a core International Relations period study – the unfolding narrative of how major powers interacted with one another in the 20th Century. This includes two studies of historical debates – how and why historians' views of appeasement and of the Cold War have differed and changed over time. Alongside that, students study one depth study – looking at the relationship between the state and the people in one of six countries during that period. This is largely done through primary source analysis.

For the British side, students study one thematic topic over 1000+ years, and then a British depth study related to their theme (again through sources), and a site study – of a site (set by OCR) relevant to this half of the course (eg a theme on power, with a depth study on the Reformation, and a study of Kenilworth castle).

GCSE History B (page 4 of this document): built around [SHP's principles](#), this syllabus comprises five distinct and diverse topics, designed to be taught over about a term each. This creates a course that considers history from a variety of perspectives, and encourages – among other things – an enquiring approach, and use of wide range of sources and interpretations. Teachers have flexibility and freedom to bring their own relevant examples to their teaching. Uniquely, one of five elements, History Around Us, allows schools to choose their own (almost always local) site to study. Thus we are seeing the history of mining villages, local high streets, pre-historic monuments, dockyards, city walls etc studied. The course is fully supported by SHP, promoting innovative and thoughtful teaching.

Nb Both History A and B include a new thematic option on Migration to Britain over time, on which we worked with experts in that field to develop and support. Excellent support for this is available at <https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/> - and see also <http://www.migrationmuseum.org/ocr/>

A Level History (pages 5-8 of this document): our principle here was to allow a diversification of the history taught at this level, and to provide the flexibility for teachers to teach according to their expertise and students' interests. Many new topics have been introduced, often in collaboration with HE, particularly in areas of non-British history, where we have been keen to allow the study of other civilisations in their own right – not just dependent on their interactions with Britain. For example, see www.africkingdoms.co.uk, developed with KCL, and <http://www.soashistoryresources.co.uk> (password needed). Another unique feature is the coursework, in that students have an entirely free choice to research and write a 3-4000 word essay on a topic of their choosing. For support for this crucial part of the course, Dr Leif Jerram of Manchester University, wrote this [guide](#). The vast range of titles submitted has been very encouraging.

GCSE History A overview

OCR's GCSE (9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World) (J410)

Learners take one component from 01–07, one from 08–10 and one from 11–13 to be awarded the OCR GCSE (9–1) in History A (Explaining the Modern World).

Content Overview	Assessment Overview
<p>Period study and non-British depth study (01–07)</p> <p>Learners study International Relations: the changing international order 1918–c.2001 and any one of the seven non-British depth studies available.</p>	<p>Component Group 1</p> <p>Period study with non-British depth study (01–07)</p> <p>105 marks*</p> <p>1 hour 45 minute written paper</p> <p>50% of total GCSE</p>
<p>British Thematic study (08–10)</p> <p>Learners study one of the three British thematic studies available.</p> <p>Each British thematic study links to one of the three British depth studies and a study of the historic environment, and these must be taken together.</p>	<p>Component Group 2</p> <p>Thematic study (08–10)</p> <p>50 marks</p> <p>1 hour written paper</p> <p>25% of total GCSE</p>
<p>British depth study and a study of the historic environment (11–13)</p> <p>Learners study one of the three British depth studies and studies of the historic environment available.</p> <p>Each British depth study and a study of the historic environment links to one of the three thematic studies, and these must be taken together.</p>	<p>Component Group 3</p> <p>British depth study with a study of the historic environment (11–13)</p> <p>55 marks*</p> <p>1 hour 15 minute written paper</p> <p>25% of total GCSE</p>

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* 5 marks will be available for SPaG. These 10 marks for SPaG are in addition to the total 200 marks for the assessment of GCSE (9–1) History A, and are not included in the percentages shown. See Section 3f for more details.

GCSE History A topics

Topics available in GCSE (9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World)

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Component Group 1	International Relations: the changing international order 1918–2001 <u>+ one depth study →</u>	China 1950–1981: The People and the State <u>or</u> Germany 1925–1955: The People and the State <u>or</u> Poland 1956–1990: The People and the State <u>or</u> Russia 1928–1964: The People and the State <u>or</u> South Africa 1960–1994: The People and the State <u>or</u> The USA 1919–1948: The People and the State <u>or</u> The USA 1945–1974: The People and the State
Component Group 2	Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010 (1) <u>or</u> Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014 (2) <u>or</u> War and British Society c.790 to c.2010 (3)	
Component Group 3	The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688–c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration (1) <u>or</u> The English Reformation c.1520–c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750 (2) <u>or</u> Personal Rule to Restoration 1629–1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750 (3)	

- (1)
(2) These options are linked and must be studied together.
(3)

2a. OCR's GCSE (9–1) History B (Schools History Project) (J411)

Learners take one component from each of the three component groups to be awarded the OCR GCSE (9–1) in History B (Schools History Project).

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>Thematic Study One from: The People's Health, c.1250 to present Crime and Punishment, c.1250 to present Migrants to Britain, c.1250 to present</p> <p>British Depth Study One from: The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087 The Elizabethans, 1580–1603 Britain in Peace and War, 1900–1918</p>	<p>Component Group 1 British History Thematic study and Depth study (11–19) 40 marks each (80 marks total) 1 hour 45 minute paper</p>	<p>20% of total GCSE</p> <hr/> <p>20% of total GCSE</p>
<p>History Around Us</p>	<p>Component Group 2 History Around Us (21) 40 marks + 10 marks SPaG* 1 hour paper</p>	<p>20% of total GCSE</p>
<p>Period Study One from: Viking Expansion, c.750–c.1050 The Mughal Empire, 1526–1707 The Making of America, 1789–1900</p> <p>World Depth Study One from: The First Crusade, c.1070–1100 Aztecs and the Spanish Conquest, 1519–1535 Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945</p>	<p>Component Group 3 World History Period study and Depth study (31–39) 40 marks each (80 marks total) 1 hour 45 minute paper</p>	<p>20% of total GCSE</p> <hr/> <p>20% of total GCSE</p>

British and wider world depth studies must be taken from different eras. The three eras are defined as: Medieval (500–1500), Early Modern (1450–1750), Modern (1700–present day).

*These 10 marks for SPaG are in addition to the total 200 marks for the assessment of GCSE (9–1) History B, and are not included in the percentage weightings shown. See Section 3f for more details.

A level history overview

Overview of A Level in History A (H505)

Learners must take one unit from each of unit groups 1 to 3 as well as the mandatory non exam assessment unit Y100 Topic based essay.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>British period study and enquiry: (unit group 1)</p> <p>Learners study one of the 13 units available, each of which constitutes a substantial and coherent element of British History.</p> <p>The enquiry is a source-based study which immediately precedes or follows the outline period study.</p>	<p>British period study and enquiry (Y101-Y113)</p> <p>50 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minute paper</p>	<p>25%</p> <p>of total A level</p>
<p>Non-British period study: (unit group 2)</p> <p>Learners study one of the 24 units available, each of which constitutes a coherent period of non-British History.</p>	<p>Non-British period study (Y201-Y224)</p> <p>30 marks</p> <p>1 hour paper</p>	<p>15%</p> <p>of total A level</p>
<p>Thematic study and historical interpretations: (unit group 3)</p> <p>Learners study one of the 21 units available. Each unit comprises a thematic study over a period of at least 100 years, and three in-depth studies of events, individuals or issues that are key parts of the theme.</p> <p>Learners will develop the ability to treat the whole period thematically, and to use their detailed knowledge of the depth study topics to evaluate interpretations of the specified key events, individuals or issues.</p>	<p>Thematic study and historical interpretations (Y301-Y321)</p> <p>80 marks</p> <p>2 hour 30 minute paper</p>	<p>40%</p> <p>of total A level</p>
<p>Topic based essay: (unit Y100)* **</p> <p>Learners will complete a 3000–4000 word essay on a topic of their choice, which may arise out of content studied elsewhere in the course. This is an internally assessed unit group. A Title(s) Proposal Form must be submitted to OCR.</p>	<p>3000–4000 word essay (Y100/03 or 04)</p> <p>Non exam assessment</p> <p>40 marks</p>	<p>20%</p> <p>of total A level</p>

*Includes synoptic assessment

**Learners who are retaking a qualification can choose either to retake the non exam assessment unit or to carry forward their mark for that unit. See Section 4d for further details.

Unit group	Group title	Unit entry code	Title	Approx. % of candidates
Unit group 1	British period study and enquiry	Y101	Alfred and the Making of England 871–1016 (Enquiry topic: Alfred the Great) (This unit cannot be taken in combination with unit Y302 The Viking Age c.790–1066)	2
		Y102	Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035–1107 (Enquiry topic: Norman England 1087–1107)	5
		Y103	England 1199–1272 (Enquiry topic: King John 1199–1216)	2
		Y104	England 1377–1455 (Enquiry topic: Richard II 1377–1399)	0.5
		Y105	England 1445–1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII (Enquiry topic: Wars of the Roses 1445–1461)	8
		Y106	England 1485–1558: the Early Tudors (Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558) (This unit cannot be taken in combination with units Y306 Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485–1603 or Y307 Tudor Foreign Policy 1485–1603)	19
		Y107	England 1547–1603: the Later Tudors (Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558) (This unit cannot be taken in combination with units Y306 Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485–1603 or Y307 Tudor Foreign Policy 1485–1603)	13.5
		Y108	The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603–1660 (Enquiry topic: The Execution of Charles I and the Interregnum 1646–1660)	13
		Y109	The Making of Georgian Britain 1678–c.1760 (Enquiry topic: The Glorious Revolution 1678–1689)	0.5
		Y110	From Pitt to Peel: Britain 1783–1853 (Enquiry topic: Peel and the Age of Reform 1832–1853)	8
		Y111	Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour 1846–1918 (Enquiry topic: England and a New Century c.1900–1918)	1
		Y112	Britain 1900–1951 (Enquiry topic: England and a New Century c.1900–1918)	6.5
		Y113	Britain 1930–1997 (Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930–1951)	21

All units in unit group 1: *British period study and enquiry*, are externally assessed (written papers)

Unit group	Group title	Unit entry code	Title	Approx. % of candidates
Unit group 2	Non-British period study	Y201	The Rise of Islam c.550–750	0.5
		Y202	Charlemagne 768–814	0.5
		Y203	The Crusades and the Crusader States 1095–1192	6.5
		Y204	Genghis Khan and the Explosion from the Steppes c.1167–1405	0.5
		Y205	Exploration, Encounters and Empire 1445–1570	0.5
		Y206	Spain 1469–1556	1
		Y207	The German Reformation and the rule of Charles V 1500–1559	2
		Y208	Philip II 1556–1598	0.5
		Y209	African Kingdoms c.1400–c.1800: four case studies	0.5
		Y210	Russia 1645–1741	0.5
		Y211	The Rise and Decline of the Mughal Empire in India 1526–1739	0.5
		Y212	The American Revolution 1740–1796	7
		Y213	The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815	15
		Y214	France 1814–1870	0.5
		Y215	Italy and Unification 1789–1896	2.5
		Y216	The USA in the 19th Century: Westward expansion and Civil War 1803–c.1890	5.5
		Y217	Japan 1853–1937	0.5
		Y218	International Relations 1890–1941	2.5
		Y219	Russia 1894–1941 (This unit cannot be taken in combination with unit Y318 Russia and its Rulers 1855–1964)	14
		Y220	Italy 1896–1943	2
		Y221	Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963	19
		Y222	The Cold War in Asia 1945–1993	6
Y223	The Cold War in Europe 1941–1995	11		
Y224	Apartheid and Reconciliation: South African Politics 1948–1999	1		

All units in unit group 2: *Non-British period study*, are externally assessed (written papers)

Unit group	Group title	Unit entry code	Title	Approx. % of candidates
Unit group 3	Thematic study and historical interpretations	Y301	The Early Anglo-Saxons c.400–800	0.5
		Y302	The Viking Age c.790–1066 (This unit cannot be taken in combination with unit Y101 Alfred and the Making of England 871–1016)	0.5
		Y303	English Government and the Church 1066–1216	1
		Y304	The Church and Medieval Heresy c.1100–1437	0.5
		Y305	The Renaissance c.1400–c.1600	1
		Y306	Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485–1603 (This unit cannot be taken in combination with units Y106 England 1485–1558: the Early Tudors or Y107 England 1547–1603: the Later Tudors)	6.5
		Y307	Tudor Foreign Policy 1485–1603 (This unit cannot be taken in combination with units Y106 England 1485–1558: the Early Tudors or Y107 England 1547–1603: the Later Tudors)	1
		Y308	The Catholic Reformation 1492–1610	1
		Y309	The Ascendancy of the Ottoman Empire 1453–1606	0.5
		Y310	The Development of the Nation State: France 1498–1610	0.5
		Y311	The Origins and Growth of the British Empire 1558–1783	0.5
		Y312	Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16 th and 17 th Centuries	6
		Y313	The Ascendancy of France 1610–1715	0.5
		Y314	The Challenge of German Nationalism 1789–1919	4
		Y315	The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792–1945	4.5
		Y316	Britain and Ireland 1791–1921	4
		Y317	China and its Rulers 1839–1989	2.5
		Y318	Russia and its Rulers 1855–1964 (This unit cannot be taken in combination with unit Y219 Russia 1894–1941)	30
		Y319	Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992	30
		Y320	From Colonialism to Independence: The British Empire 1857–1965	2
Y321	The Middle East 1908–2011: Ottomans to Arab Spring	3.5		