

GCE



Rewarding Learning

Revised GCE
History

Overview of Changes to
Specification and Assessment

For first teaching from September 2019



GCE History – Updated Specification for first teaching 2019

CCEA’s new specification for first teaching from September 2019 has now been accredited. The updated specification and specimen assessment materials can be found on CCEA’s History microsite www.ccea.org/history.

To make it easier for teachers to understand the changes we have produced an overview for each unit and option which details how the specification content has changed and provides an overview of the changes to the assessment arrangements.

What has stayed the same?

Many aspects of our current specification and assessment arrangements remain unchanged. These include:

Students must still study 4 units, 2 at AS level and 2 at A2 level;

Students can take the AS units as a final qualification or they can take the AS units plus the A2 units for the full advanced GCE A level qualification;

The guided learning hours for this specification are 180 hours for the Advanced Subsidiary level award and 360 hours for the Advanced level award;

All units are externally assessed;

Time allowed for the examination papers at AS level - 1 hour 30 minutes for both AS1 and AS2;

There is a wide degree of choice since each unit has 4-6 different options - this allows students to follow a broad and coherent course of study;

The specification ensures that the programme of study of all students includes a significant proportion of English or Irish history;

Mark schemes clearly identify the assessment objectives targeted in each question; and

Quality of written communication will be assessed in certain questions - it will be clearly identified in the examination paper when QWC is being assessed.

What has changed?

The full advanced GCE qualification is based on students' marks for the AS units (40%) and the A2 units (60%);

The weightings of the A2 Units - A21 is worth 20% of the A level, while A22 contributes to 40%;

The structure of the examination papers for AS1 and A22;

The time allocation for the A21 and A22 examination papers;

The wording of the Assessment Objectives - in particular, the present AO1(a) and AO1(b) have combined to form AO1;

The way in which Assessment Objective AO3 is tested;

AO3 is no longer assessed in the synoptic essay question in A21 or the essay question in A22;

The content of some options has changed and two new options are available in A21;

The time periods of some options;

The wording of the short response question in AS1;

There is a prohibited combination: students who choose AS2 Option 3 (Ireland 1823-67) may not study A21 Option 2 (Ireland under the Union 1800-1900);

The content of the mark schemes has been reduced.

AS Unit 1: Historical Investigations and Interpretations

(20% of total qualification)

Specification overview:

Students choose one of five options.

Assessment overview:

Students answer either question 1(a) or 1(b) and both parts of question 2.

The duration of the examination is 1 hour 30 minutes.

A total of 60 marks are available.

AS Unit 1		
	Significant Changes to Specification	Significant Changes to Assessment
Option 1: England 1509-58	The time period to be studied in the old specification was 1520-70.	The command word in Question 1 is 'analyse'. Question 2(a) has the same wording as before but candidates have more time to do it and it is worth more marks. Contextual knowledge is required to obtain a Level 4 mark. The topic examined will be unrelated to 2b. Question 2(b) is a source-based evaluation of two different interpretations of an historical event or development. This question targets Assessment Objective AO3.
Option 2: England 1603-49	There are no significant changes.	
Option 3: Britain in the Age of Reform 1830-80	The previous title was 'England 1815-68'.	
Option 4: Italy and Germany 1815- 71	There are no significant changes.	
Option 5: Germany 1919-45	In the old specification the start date was 1918. The new specification places more emphasis on the period 1939-45.	

Please ensure that you are familiar with the content requirements of this updated specification.

AS Unit 2: Historical Conflict and Change

(20% of total qualification)

Specification overview:

Students choose one of six options.

Assessment overview:

Students answer 2 questions out of 3. They must answer parts (i) and (ii) of their chosen questions.

The duration of the examination is 1 hour 30 minutes.

A total of 60 marks are available.

AS Unit 2		
	Significant Changes to Specification	Significant Changes to Assessment
Option 1: Spain and Europe 1556-98	The time period to be studied in the old specification was 1556-92.	None
Option 2: The Ascendancy of France in Europe 1660-1714	There are no significant changes.	
Option 3: Ireland 1823-67	In the old specification the start date was 1821.	
Option 4: France 1815-70	In the old specification the start date was 1871.	
Option 5: Russia 1914-41	The time period to be studied in the old specification was 1903-41	
Option 6: Italy's Quest for Great Power Status 1871-1943	The previous title was Italy 1914-41. In the new specification there is more focus on foreign policy.	

Please ensure that you are familiar with the content requirements of this updated specification.

A2 Unit 1: Change over Time

(20% of total qualification)

Specification overview:

Students choose one of five options.

Assessment overview:

Students answer 1 question out of 2.

The duration of the examination is 1 hour 15 minutes.

A total of 40 marks are available.

A2 Unit 1		
	Significant Changes to Specification	Significant Changes to Assessment
Option 1: Crown and Parliament in England 1625-1714	The time period to be studied in the old specification was 1603-1702.	In the new specification, as in the old, A2 1 will be assessed by a synoptic essay question. A significant change is that it will only target Assessment Objective AO1. It will not target AO3 and candidates are not required to provide contemporary and later interpretations in their answers.
Option 2: Ireland under the Union 1800-1900	The previous title was Unionism and Nationalism in Ireland 1800-1900.	
Option 3: The Causes and Consequences of Great Power Conflict 1848-1945	This is a new option.	
Option 4: The American Presidency 1901-2000	This is a new option.	
Option 5: Clash of Ideologies in Europe 1900-2000	There are closer links between the motives, aims and methods of Soviet foreign policy and those of Western governments.	

Please ensure that you are familiar with the content requirements of this updated specification.

Unit A22: Historical Investigations and Interpretations

(40% of total qualification)

Specification overview:

Students choose one of four options.

Assessment overview:

Students answer both parts of question 1, question 2 and either question 3(a) or 3(b).

The duration of the examination is 2 hours 30 minutes.

A total of 80 marks are available.

A2 Unit 2		
	Significant Changes to Specification	Significant Changes to Assessment
Option 1: England 1558-1603	The time period to be studied in the old specification was 1570-1603.	The wording of Questions 1(a) and 1(b) is very similar to the previous specification.
Option 2: Ireland 1685-1714	The time period to be studied in the old specification was 1607-91.	Question 2 is a source-based evaluation of two different interpretations of an historical event or development. It assesses AO3.
Option 3: Ireland 1778-1803	The time period to be studied in the old specification was 1775-1800.	Question 3 is an extended essay question which targets AO1. It no longer tests AO3 and candidates are not required to provide contemporary and later interpretations in their answers.
Option 4: Partition of Ireland 1900-25	There are no significant changes.	

Please ensure that you are familiar with the content requirements of this updated specification.

Examination Papers and Mark Scheme Changes at a Glance

Unit 1: Historical Investigations and Interpretations

AS Unit 1				
Question	Marks	Exemplar Question	AO Target	Overview of Mark Scheme Requirements
1	10	Analyse the causes of Wyatt's Rebellion in 1554.	AO1	Short response question. QWC.
2(a)	20	Study Source 1. How useful is it as evidence for an historian studying English attitudes towards Spain during the reign of James I? You must use contextual knowledge in your answer.	AO2	Evaluation of the usefulness of a primary source. Contextual knowledge is required.
2(b)	30	Study Source 2 and Source 3. Historians have different views about particular issues. Using both sources, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of the reasons for the Nazis' rise to power from 1930 to 30 January 1933 do you find more convincing?	AO3	Source-based evaluation of two different interpretations of an historical event or development. Contextual knowledge is required.

Total **60 marks**

Unit 2: Historical Conflict and Change

(20% of total qualification)

AS Unit 2				
Question 1-3	Marks	Exemplar Question	AO Target	Overview of Mark Scheme Requirements
(a)	8	Explain the reasons for Italy's decision to enter the First World War in 1915.	AO1	Short response question. No argument required. QWC.
(b)	22	How far would you agree that the most important effect of the First World War on Italy between 1915 and 1918 was on its economy.	AO1	Extended essay requiring a judgement. QWC.

Total 30 x 2 = **60 marks**

Unit A21: Change over Time

A2 Unit 1				
Question 1-2	Marks	Exemplar Question	AO Target	Overview of Mark Scheme Requirements
1 or 2	40	'British governments were more successful in governing Ireland in the period 1800-1850 than in 1850-1900'. How far would you agree with this verdict?	AO1	Synoptic essay on a period of approximately 100 years. QWC.

Total **40 marks**

Unit A2 2: Historical Investigations and Interpretations

A2 Unit 2				
Question	Marks	Exemplar Question	AO Target	Overview of Mark Scheme Requirements
1(a)	15	Use Source 1 and your knowledge of this period. How valuable is Source 1 to an historian as evidence in a study of the opposition to Home Rule in the period 1912-1914?	AO2	Evaluate the value of one primary source. A substantiated judgement is required about the value of the source. Own knowledge of the period is required.
1(b)	20	Use Source 1 and Source 2 and other evidence you have studied. How far do the sources support the view that Ulster itself was the main priority of all those who opposed Home Rule up to 1914?	AO1 AO2	10 marks are available for use of the sources and 10 for the candidate's own knowledge.
2	25	Study Source 3 and Source 4. Using the sources, and your understanding of the historical context, which of these different interpretations of the importance of the Williamite victory at the Battle of the Boyne do you find more convincing?	AO3	Source-based evaluation of two different interpretations of an historical event or development. Contextual knowledge is required.
3(a) / (b)	20	How far would you agree that Elizabeth I and her governments successfully dealt with economic and social problems in England in the period 1558-1603?	AO1	This is a traditional essay question. QWC.

Total **80 marks**