

GCSE HISTORY SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

Our revised GCSE History qualification has been designed following consultation with teachers, students, higher education representatives and employers to ensure that we have devised a qualification that is fit for purpose. We listened to the feedback and have developed a qualification that will inspire and engage students to continue studying History beyond Key Stage 3. Our modern History qualification will allow students to consider the relevance of the past to gain a deeper understanding of the world in which they live.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

We have retained the most popular topics of Germany and the USA as the focus of the modern world studies in depth. We have also retained the topic of Northern Ireland as the local study. This study has been designed to enhance students' understanding of significant developments associated with a particular period in Northern Ireland's past and relations between Northern Ireland and its neighbours. While the Cold War remains an integral part of our redesigned outline study, we have made minor changes to allow the content to be broadened. This brings it up to date and captures the interests of students. It also enhances their understanding of international relations and the extent to which international developments continue to shape the global political landscape today.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

History is an academically rigorous subject that is highly regarded by universities and employers. By studying our GCSE History qualification, students will develop skills that will help them to become more proficient in a wide range of other subjects and support them in their future education and in the workplace. Our GCSE History qualification will also promote important skills that will support progression to studying History at GCE. However, the key benefit of studying History extends beyond the classroom. It will develop students as inquiring, curious and critical thinkers and spark a lifelong interest in making sense of the past.

KEY FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION

- Our GCSE History qualification has a clear structure made up of two units that are both externally assessed.
- Controlled assessment is no longer a requirement in this newly designed qualification.
- We have retained the unitised structure to allow for flexibility in delivery.
- We have reduced the assessment time to three hours in total.
- All question papers are now single tier.
- The question papers and mark schemes are clear and accessible.
- The new qualification builds on historical skills and understanding developed at Key Stage 3 to ensure continuity and progression for students and to help teachers plan a more coherent History programme across the key stages.
- More support and guidance is available for teachers, including a planning framework for each option/unit, as well as some exemplar lessons and teaching resources to support the delivery of the new content.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS AND THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

Through the teaching of our GCSE in History, opportunities exist to develop the statutory skills requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 4: the Cross-Curricular Skills and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. Many opportunities exist in the History classroom to promote these statutory skills and the holistic skill development of students. For example:

- Communication (oral and written) – participate in discussions and interpret, analyse and present information;
- Using Mathematics – use mental computation and interpret and analyse mathematical data;
- Using ICT – access, manage, select and present information;
- Self-Management – plan work, set goals and targets, and monitor and review progress;
- Working with Others – learn through co-operation with others, teamwork and influence group thinking and decision-making; and
- Problem Solving – identify and analyse relationships and patterns, analyse and evaluate perspectives, explore unfamiliar views without prejudice and weigh up options and justify decisions.



CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

CONTENT	CONTENT SUMMARY	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING
Unit 1 Section A: Modern World Studies in Depth	In Section A, students have a choice of either: Option 1: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–45 or Option 2: Life in the United States of America, 1920–33	External written examination 1 hour 45 mins	60%
Section B: Local Study	In Section B, students have a choice of either: Option 1: Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1920–49 or Option 2: Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965–98		
Unit 2: Outline Study	This unit covers International Relations, 1945–2003	External written examination 1 hour 15 mins	40%

SUPPORTING YOU

The following resources are available to support this specification:

- specimen assessment materials;
- a planning framework for each option/unit, including a resource list and a timeline;
- sample lessons and resources to deliver new areas of content; and
- 'Steps to Success' for each unit, written to help prepare students for the examinations.

We also intend to provide:

- past papers and mark schemes;
- Chief Examiner's reports;
- centre support visits;
- exemplification of examination performance; and
- support days for teachers.

For more information, see our History microsite at www.ccea.org.uk

SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT

For first teaching from September 2017
For first assessment in Summer 2018
For first award in Summer 2019