

GCE HISTORY

Happy New Year!

First of all, we hope you have enjoyed a restful break over the past few weeks and that you and your candidates are back and raring to go for the upcoming examination series (it'll be here before we know it!). On which point, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of this year's NEA deadline and the examination dates. They are, in unit order:

- Unit 1 – Wednesday, 13 May 2026 (Afternoon)
- Unit 2 – Monday, 18 May 2026 (Afternoon)
- Unit 3 – Tuesday, 2 June 2026 (Afternoon)
- Unit 4 – Thursday, 11 June 2026 (Morning)
- Unit 5 – Friday, 15 May 2026*

* Please note that work must be with the moderator, once again uploaded via IAMIS, by the end of the day of the deadline.

Unit 5 – the NEA

Following some feedback from centres in the autumn of 2025 we would like to reiterate a few points about the NEA.

- Marking caps:
 - If a candidate exceeds the word count (maximum 4000 words), they cannot access Band 6 of AO1
 - If a candidate includes fewer than **six** contemporary sources, they cannot access Band 5 or 6 of AO2
 - If a candidate includes fewer than **two** alternative interpretations to that expressed in the question, they cannot access Band 5 or 6 of AO3
 - If a candidate receives specific advice, they cannot access Band 6 on any of the three assessment objectives
 - For further detail on this, please refer to the centre support document (available via the WJEC GCE History homepage) and the 'Preparing for NEA' presentation (available as an on-demand course via the training tab)
- Presentation of sources:
 - Sources must be numbered, and they should either be indented or, preferably, boxed.
 - If a source is unreadable, then it cannot be accepted as a legitimate source. Text-based sources should be transcribed with a link to their origin clearly stated in the attribution
- Presentation of interpretations:
 - The alternative interpretations, can also be presented in boxes or be indented, though, depending on their form and nature. Where this is done, candidates are advised to letter these, to differentiate them from the sources.
- Several centres have expressed disquiet about some of the comments in the moderator reports from Summer 2025. If, for example, you have told candidates to do something – such as label their sources correctly – but they have not done so, please mention this in a covering letter with your NEA submission so that the moderator is aware that you have told them.

Examination terminology

As you may be aware if you have viewed the Summer 2025 examination feedback recording (see below), there will be an adjustment to question phrasing across all GCE History examination papers from Summer 2026. We will advise you of the specific detail via a circular in the coming weeks. Please look out for this and ask your examinations officer to alert you of its arrival.

Summer 2025 feedback recording

In early November 2025 we issued a guidance presentation outlining some of the key features of the summer 2025 examination series. Included in this was data from the series, senior examiner observations from the papers that they oversaw, and some guidance we hope supports differentiation among your learners in the achievement of the three assessment objectives for GCE History. There was also a preview of the examination terminology amends for summer 2026 (see above) and an opportunity to send questions for us to respond to in this letter. As of the deadline for the submission of those questions, on Monday, 15 December 2025, we had received none. As such, if you have any questions that you think would benefit you and your colleagues across Wales, then please send them to the GCE History inbox and label them **Newsletter Question**. Should we receive any, we will anonymise them, collate them and respond to them in the next newsletter.

Historic Royal Palaces Teaching Awards

The team at Historic Royal Palaces have been in touch and asked us to inform you about their upcoming teaching awards. Entries for this opened in October 2025 and will close very soon – on Sunday, 25 January 2026. If you would like more information on this, HRP have prepared a bilingual information sheet which we have appended to this newsletter. Please take a look for further information.

Get in touch

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the GCE History team at WJEC – you can reach us at GCEHistory@wjec.co.uk/TAGHanes@cbac.co.uk

With our best wishes,

Neil and Ruby

Neil Evans
Subject Officer

Ruby Flux
Subject Support Officer



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

Historic Royal Palaces launches brand-new Inspiring History Teaching Awards

The independent charity – which looks after Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace, Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, and more – will celebrate UK teachers who make history exciting, inclusive and meaningful

Much-loved historian and broadcaster Lucy Worsley to lead the national judging panel, alongside Greg Jenner, Sathnam Sanghera, Dan Jones, Shalina Patel and more

London, UK - Tuesday 21st October 2025 – Historic Royal Palaces today announces that its inaugural **Inspiring History Teaching Awards** is now open for entries. Delivered with support from the Historical Association and partners across the UK, this new national award scheme celebrates teachers who bring the past to life in classrooms across the country.

More than ever, history is a vital subject in schools. Great teachers around the UK are igniting a love and appreciation for the past. They help make sense of the world and one's place in it. They spark curiosity by exploring important stories that are relevant to everyone. And they encourage young people to ask questions and develop critical thinking – crucial skills in the age of social media and AI.

To recognise this important work, Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) will award 10 regional and national winners – each receiving a £500 cash prize for themselves and £500 for their school along with annual memberships to HRP and Historical Association plus the chance to become an HRP Teacher Champion. One overall winner will receive an additional £500 for themselves and £500 for their school, plus a lifetime HRP membership. Read the full details at hrp.org.uk/teachingawards.

The **Inspiring History Teaching Awards** are an extension of Historic Royal Palaces' own work to bring history to life for every child in the UK. As an independent charity, HRP receives no Government or Crown funding and relies on visitors, members, donors and partners to care for its six remarkable palaces: Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace, Banqueting House, Kew Palace, and Hillsborough Castle and Gardens. Over the next 10 years, it is committed to reaching every school in the UK through on-site visits, school programmes, new digital experiences and teacher support. The *Inspiring History Teaching Awards* mark a new chapter in that ambition— a timely, national moment



to shine a light on
past to life, spark
students.

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teachers who bring the
curiosity, and inspire

The Inspiring History Teaching Awards are about impact beyond exam results. The judging panel will be looking for innovation and ingenuity: the class that are vividly transported to Ancient Egypt or Tudor England; The child who comes home bursting to share mindboggling

facts; or the student who finds new pride in their community after discovering a local hero who changed society for the better.

This brand-new, national award is designed to **celebrate teachers from every corner of the UK, at all career levels**, within Primary, Secondary, Further Education, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or Additional Support Needs (ASN).

Nominations are free and simple to do and can be submitted by anyone over 18. The charity is encouraging colleagues, parents, guardians, governors – and teachers themselves – to champion brilliant history educators making a difference.

On **Saturday 20th June 2026**, a prestigious ceremony will be held at the **Tower of London** where the 10 regional and national winners will be celebrated, and the overall winner will be revealed.

Lucy Worsley, Historian, Broadcaster and HRP Ambassador, will lead the judging process to decide who clinches the top award. She says: *“Great history teaching doesn’t just tell students what happened—it helps them think, question and connect with the world around them. We’re looking for the inspirational people who do this every day in their classrooms. If that’s you – or somebody you know – please send in a nomination. HRP’s Inspiring History Teaching Awards will be an important chance to celebrate their hard work, creativity and passion.”*

On the national judging panel, Worsley is joined by more of the UK’s most respected and recognisable historians, educators and writers, including:

- **Greg Jenner** - Historian and Podcast Host (*You’re Dead To Me*)
- **Sathnam Sanghera** - Journalist and Author (*Empireland, Empireworld* and *The Boy with the Topknot*)
- **Dan Jones** - Historian, Author and Podcast Host (*This Is History*)
- **Shalina Patel** - Historian, Teacher and Writer (*The History Lessons*)
- **Michael Riley** - History Educator and Academic
- **Katie Hunter** - Teacher, Activist and Researcher

To ensure the awards have a truly national reach, HRP is collaborating with organisations across all four devolved nations. UK-wide partners include the Historical Association – who is the Associate Partner for the awards – and the Association of Independent Museums. In Wales, HRP is working with Cadw; in Scotland, with Royal Collection Trust and the Palace of



Holyroodhouse, the
and the Scottish
Teaching of History; and
National Museums NI and the History Teachers' Association of Northern Ireland.

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Scottish Maritime Museum,
Association for the
in Northern Ireland, with
Association of Northern Ireland.

HRP's Inspiring History Teaching Awards are now open for entries at
hrp.org.uk/teachingawards. Entries will close on Sunday 25 January 2026.



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Historic Royal Palaces yn lansio'r Gwobrau Addysgu Hanes Ysbrydoledig newydd sbon

Bydd yr elusen annibynnol – sy'n gofalu am Dŵr Llundain, Palas Hampton Court, Palas Kensington, Castell a Gerddi Hillsborough, a mwy – yn dathlu athrawon y DU sy'n gwneud hanes yn gyffrous, yn gynhwysol ac yn ystyrlon.

Yr hanesydd a'r darlledwr poblogaidd Lucy Worsley fydd yn arwain y panel beirniadu cenedlaethol, ochr yn ochr â Greg Jenner, Sathnam Sanghera, Dan Jones, Shalina Patel ac eraill.

Llundain, y DU - Dydd Mawrth 21ain Hydref 2025 – Mae Historic Royal Palaces yn cyhoeddi heddiw bod ei **Wobrau Addysgu Hanes Ysbrydoledig** cyntaf bellach ar agor ar gyfer ceisiadau. Wedi'i gyflwyno gyda chefnogaeth yr Historical Association (y Gymdeithas Hanesyddol) a phartneriaid ledled y DU, mae'r cynllun gwobrau cenedlaethol newydd hwn yn dathlu athrawon sy'n dod â'r gorffennol yn fyw mewn ystafelloedd dosbarth ledled y wlad.

Yn fwy nag erioed, mae hanes yn bwnc hanfodol mewn ysgolion, gydag athrawon gwych ledled y DU yn ysbrydoli cariad tuag at a gwerthfawrogiad o'r gorffennol. Maen nhw'n helpu i wneud synnwyr o'r byd a lle rhywun yn ddo. Maen nhw'n ysgogi chwilfrydedd drwy archwilio straeon pwysig sy'n berthnasol i bawb. Ac maen nhw'n annog pobl ifanc i ofyn cwestiynau a datblygu meddwl beirniadol – sgiliau hanfodol yn oes y cyfryngau cymdeithasol a deallusrwydd artiffisial.

I gydnabod y gwaith pwysig hwn, bydd Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) yn dyfarnu 10 enillydd rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol – pob un yn derbyn gwobr ariannol o £500 iddyn nhw eu hunain ac £500 i'w hysgol ynghyd ag aelodaeth flynyddol o HRP a'r Historical Association (y Gymdeithas Hanesyddol), yn ogystal â'r cyfle i ddod yn Bencampwr Athrawon HRP. Bydd un enillydd cyffredinol yn derbyn £500 ychwanegol iddyn nhw eu hunain ac £500 i'w hysgol, ynghyd ag aelodaeth oes o HRP. Darllenwch y manylion llawn yn hrp.org.uk/teachingawards.

Mae'r **Gwobrau Addysgu Hanes Ysbrydoledig** yn estyniad o waith Historic Royal Palaces ei hun i ddod â hanes yn fyw i bob plentyn yn y DU. Fel elusen annibynnol, nid yw HRP yn derbyn unrhyw gyllid gan y Llywodraeth na'r Goron ac mae'n dibynnu ar ymwelwyr, aelodau, rhoddwyr a phartneriaid i ofalu am ei chwe phalas rhyfeddol: Tŵr Llundain, Palas Hampton Court, Palas Kensington, y Tŷ Gwledda, Palas Kew, a Chastell Hillsborough a'r Gerddi.

Dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf, mae wedi ymrwymo i gyrraedd pob ysgol yn y DU drwy ymweliadau ar-y-safle, rhaglenni ysgol, profiadau digidol newydd a chefnogaeth i athrawon. Mae'r *Gwobrau Addysgu Hanes Ysbrydoledig* yn nodi pennod newydd

yn y nod hwnnw ac yn
amserol i dynnu sylw at
gorffennol yn fyw, yn
ysbrydoli disgyblion.



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foment genedlaethol
athrawon sy'n dod â'r
tanio chwilfrydedd, ac yn



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Mae'r Gwobrau Addysgu Hanes Ysbrydoledig yn ymwneud â dylanwad y tu hwnt i ganlyniadau arholiadau. Bydd y panel beirniadu yn chwilio am arloesedd a dyfeisgarwch: y dosbarth sy'n cael ei gludo mewn ffordd lawn dychymyg i'r Hen Aifft neu Loegr y Tuduriaid; y plentyn sy'n dod adref yn awyddus i rannu ffeithiau syfrdanol; neu'r disgybl sy'n teimlo balchder newydd yn ei gymuned ar ôl darganfod arwr lleol a newidiodd y gymdeithas er gwell.

Pwrpas y wobwr genedlaethol newydd sbon hon yw **dathlu athrawon o bob cwr o'r DU, ar bob cam yn eu gyrfa**, o fewn Addysg Gynradd, Uwchradd, Addysg Bellach, Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig ac Anabledd neu Anghenion Cymorth Ychwanegol. Mae enwebiadau yn rhad ac am ddim, yn hawdd i'w gwneud, a gall unrhyw un dros 18 oed eu cyflwyno. Mae'r elusen yn annog cydweithwyr, rhieni, gwarcheidwaid, llywodraethwyr – ac athrawon eu hunain – i gefnogi addysgwyr hanes gwych sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth.

Ar **ddydd Sadwrn 20 Mehefin 2026**, cynhelir seremoni fawreddog yn Nhŵr Llundain lle bydd y 10 enillydd rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol yn cael eu dathlu, a bydd enw'r enillydd cyffredinol yn cael ei ddatgelu.

Lucy Worsley, Hanesydd, Darlledwr a Llysgennad HRP, fydd yn arwain y broses farnu i benderfynu pwy sy'n cipio'r brif wobwr. Meddai Lucy: *"Mae addysgu hanes gwych yn dweud wrth ddisgyblion mwy na'r hyn ddigwyddodd yn unig – mae'n eu helpu i feddwl, cwestiynu a chysylltu â'r byd o'u hamgylch. Rydyn ni'n chwilio am yr unigolion ysbrydoledig sy'n gwneud hyn bob dydd yn eu hystafelloedd dosbarth. Os ydych chi'n un ohonynt – neu'n adnabod rhywun felly – anfonwch enwebiad. Bydd Gwobrau Addysgu Hanes Ysbrydoledig HRP yn gyfle pwysig i ddathlu eu gwaith caled, eu creadigrwydd a'u hangerdd."*

Ar y panel beirniadu cenedlaethol gyda Lucy Worsley mae rhai o haneswyr, addysgwyr ac awduron mwyaf adnabyddus y DU, gan gynnwys:

- **Greg Jenner** - Hanesydd a Chyflwynydd Podlediad (*You're Dead To Me*)
- **Sathnam Sanghera** - Newyddiadurwr ac Awdur (*Empireland, Empireworld and The Boy with the Topknot*)
- **Dan Jones** - Hanesydd, Awdur a Chyflwynydd Podlediad (*This Is History*)
- **Shalina Patel** - Hanesydd, Athrawes ac Awdur (*The History Lessons*)
- **Michael Riley** - Addysgwr Hanes ac Academydd
- **Katie Hunter** - Athrawes Hanes, Actifydd ac Ymchwilydd

I sicrhau bod y gwobrau'n cyrraedd cymaint â phosibl o ranbarthau'r pedair cendl, mae HRP yn cydweithio â sefydliadau ar draws y pedair gwlad ddatganoledig. Mae partneriaid ledled y DU yn cynnwys yr Historical Association – sef y partner cyswllt ar gyfer y gwobrau – a'r Association of Independent Museums. Yng Nghymru, mae HRP yn bles iawn i weithio gyda



Cadw; yn yr Alban,
Trust a Phalas Tŷ
Maritime Museum, a'r

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Teaching of History; ac yng Ngogledd Iwerddon, gyda
History Teachers' Association of Northern Ireland.

gyda'r Royal Collection
Holyroodhouse, y Scottish
Scottish Association for the

National Museums NI a'r

Mae Gwobrau Addysgu Ysbrydoledig HRP bellach ar agor ar gyfer ceisiadau yn hrp.org.uk/teachingawards. Bydd y cofrestriadau'n cau ar ddydd Sul 25 Ionawr 2026.