

# WHY CHOOSE GCSE (9-1) HISTORY?

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We all live in a volatile, dynamic and interconnected world. Knowledge of the past is essential in understanding and trying to make sense of what's happening now. GCSE History helps us to do both, through studying key events and individuals from the past and the ways in which they have shaped our present.

Employers are always looking for young people who are able to think critically and analytically, both key attributes of the historian, and studying GCSE History can help you take the first steps on a variety of career paths, including law, journalism, marketing, human resources, and management.

GCSE History also serves as a platform for further study at A level and undergraduate level, either in history itself or in a wide range of alternative disciplines. It can act as the foundation stone for education of all kinds and helps develop academic skills crucial in a range of fields. These include the ability to absorb large quantities of information, sift content, analyse sources and interpretations, shape arguments and reach balanced conclusions.

Above all, though, GCSE History provides a highly interesting and stimulating course of study, allowing the investigation of a wide range of periods and societies in the past at international, national and local level.



# GCSE HISTORY



## What will I study?

The subject content at GCSE enables you to investigate a broad and rich range of options drawn from different periods and diverse societies. Learners can investigate, analyse and evaluate historical figures and events from the broad range of options on offer. These include:

- British History in depth e.g. Elizabethan England
- Non-British History in depth e.g. Weimar and Nazi Germany
- Broader national and international studies e.g. the development of the USA in the twentieth century
- Longer thematic studies exploring change and continuity over time e.g. changes in crime and punishment over time
- Local studies based on nominated historic sites e.g. Wembley Stadium

## How will I be assessed?

There are two examination components, each two hours long:

### Component 1

A British Depth paper (1 hour) covering topics like the Peasants' Revolt, the Spanish Armada, the Second Boer War and Notting Hill Riots depending on the option chosen

A Non-British depth paper (1 hour) covering topics like the First Crusade, Hernan Cortes and the conquest of the Aztecs, the rise of Hitler or the Wall Street Crash depending on the option chosen

### Component 2

A Period Study paper (45 minutes) covering topics like the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Berlin Airlift, the collapse of Communism in Russia and the General Strike depending on the option chosen

A Thematic Study paper (1 hour 15 minutes) covering topics like transportation, the Black Death, the First World War and cruelty in sport depending on the option chosen

All the examination papers will test knowledge and understanding, analysis and explanation, source evaluation and explanation of interpretations of the past.

## What skills will I develop?

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop and assess a wide range of transferable skills for employment or further study:

- Reaching conclusions and making judgements
- Problem solving
- Writing skills
- Research skills
- Independent study skills
- Analytical and evaluative skills
- Making connections

## Further study and careers with History

GCSE History provides a suitable foundation for the study of history or a wide range of other academic subjects at A level which in turn can lead to a variety of university degree courses. It provides crucial knowledge of the past as well as developing a broad range of transferable skills to help you understand your place in the world and find your path in the world of further education and work.