

WJEC GCSE HISTORY

Why choose WJEC GCSE History?

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 is happening now. GCSE History helps us to understand the complex world in which we live through the study of key events and individuals from the past and consideration of the ways in which they have shaped our present.

Employers are always looking for young people who can think critically and analytically, both key attributes of the historian. 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, however, 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.

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 in the past. Learners can investigate, analyse and evaluate historical figures and events from the broad and varied range of options on offer. These include:

- Wales and the Wider perspective e.g. Depression, War and Recovery
- History with a European/ World focus e.g. Germany in Transition
- Thematic studies from a broad historical perspective e.g. Changes in Crime and Punishment, c. 1500 to the present day



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What skills will I develop?

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop and refine 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

How will I be assessed?

There are three examination assessments and one non-examination assessment.

Unit 1 (25%)

The Wales and the Wider perspective paper (1 hour) covering topics like the Catholic threat, the impact of industrial and rural protest and the changing lives of women over time, depending on the option chosen.

Unit 2 (25%)

The History with a European/ world focus paper (1 hour) covering topics like life in early Communist Russia, religion and race in the USA and Hitler's foreign policy, depending on the option chosen.

Unit 3 (30%)

A thematic study paper (1 hour 15 minutes) covering topics like methods of punishment over time, causes of illness and disease throughout history and the role of women in war, depending on the option chosen.

Unit 4 (20%)

The non-examination assessment involves two separate tasks which will be completed in class. The topics chosen will not replicate or overlap with the content of any of the examined units chosen.

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.