

WJEC GCSE History Newsletter, Autumn 2025

A new term begins! We hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer break and had the opportunity for some well-deserved rest and recuperation. This newsletter contains key information to help you prepare for the forthcoming academic year.

June 2026 Timetable, WJEC GCSE History

We are reviewing the scheduling of the GCSE History examinations for summer 2026. The change to the start date for delivering the new Made-for-Wales GCSE History has resulted in a potential clash for students taking GCSE History with the new GCSE English Language and Literature, unit 1 exam on 15 May and the new GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy, unit 2 exam on 4 June.

Our aim is to maintain the GCSE History examinations relatively close to the current published timetable whilst avoiding a clash in the same morning or afternoon session as the new GCSE English, Cymraeg and Mathematics and Numeracy, together with legacy qualification exams in these subjects. As the proposed dates were not in the June 2026 timetable consultation, we are proposing two options for each unit and would be grateful for centre feedback. There is no morning or afternoon session available without another GCSE examination scheduled. The proposed changes may therefore result in a clash for some students.

GCSE History Unit 1 - currently scheduled for the morning of 15 May

The proposal is to move the GCSE History unit 1 examination to either the afternoon of 13 May or 18 May.

The table below details the WJEC GCSE examinations and Level 1/2 Vocational qualifications scheduled for the same day and their duration:

13 May	Exam duration	18 May	Exam duration
Morning			
GCSE Welsh Language, unit 2	2h	GCSE Chemistry Unit 2	1h 45m (Higher and (Foundation Tier)
GCSE Welsh Second, unit 3	1h 30m	GCSE Science Double Award Unit 5	1h15m
Afternoon			
GCSE Computer Science, unit 1	1h 45m	GCSE Media Studies 3680U10 - 1	1h 30m
		L1/2 Engineering 5799U30-1	1h 30m
		L1/2 CCPLD Principles & Contexts 5972UAO-1/5972UB0-1	1h 30m
		L1 Core Latin Language 9511/01	1h 15m
Proposed addition: GCSE History Unit 1	1 hour	Proposed addition: GCSE History Unit 1	1 hour

Based on June 2025 candidate entries, there are fewer clashes between GCSE History and GCSE Computer Science (335) than between GCSE History and GCSE Media Studies (405).

GCSE History Unit 2 – currently scheduled for the morning of 4 June

The proposal is to move the GCSE History unit 2 examination to either the afternoon of 2 June or 5 June.

The table below details the examinations scheduled for the same day and their duration:

2 June	Exam duration	5 June	Exam duration
Morning			
GCSE Welsh Language, unit 3	2h	GCSE English Language, unit 3	2h
GCSE Welsh Second Language, unit 4	1h 30m		
Afternoon			
GCSE Media Studies, unit 2	1h 30m	GCSE Music, unit 3	1 hour, approx
Proposed addition: GCSE History, unit 2	1 hour	Proposed addition: GCSE History, unit 2	1 hour

Based on June 2025 candidate entries, there is no significant difference between the clashes in GCSE History and either Media Studies or Music.

Please provide feedback on the options by 12 September using the [survey](#).

Examiners Report

Our Principal Examiners Report will be published on the public website on 30th September. We encourage you to review this document carefully as it provides valuable insights into how candidates can enhance their exam responses and gain access to the higher mark bands. The report contains an executive summary of overall performance, as well as a component and question level breakdown of candidate performance in the summer series.

You can access the report here: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/history-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Autumn Term Professional Learning opportunities

Our new Assessment Feedback Package for 2025-26 is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated. This integrated suite of resources and training brings together free access to Principal Examiner reports, marked scripts, and online assessment feedback sessions, as well as a range of optional paid face-to-face Professional Learning events. Learn more about how you and your learners can benefit from our Assessment Feedback Package here: [Assessment Feedback Package 2025-26](#). You can download the most recent Principal Examiner Report and register for FREE, online feedback events on your qualification page.

Upcoming Courses

This year's course will focus on the new Made for Wales GCSE History; it is designed for practitioners preparing to mark Unit 4 of the new GCSE qualification. The session will focus on the requirements of the NEA, the assessment objectives and highlight key points from the mark scheme/markings bands. There will also be an opportunity to explore exemplar material, created specifically for illustrating approaches to marking.

- WJEC GCSE History: Preparing to assess (English). Online 20th January 2026, 4.00pm - 5.30pm.
- WJEC GCSE History: Preparing to assess (Welsh). Online 22nd January 2026, 4.00pm - 5.30pm.

Please register here [GCSE History \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/gcse-history)

GCSE Resources

Please do visit the [Digital Resources Website](https://www.wjec.co.uk/digital-resources) to access a range of resources that can be used to support both learning and teaching of History GCSE in the classroom or as part of a blended/flipped learning programme.

New Made for Wales GCSE History

A full set of Blended Learning resources and Knowledge Organisers have been developed to support teaching and learning of Unit 1 and Unit 3 of the new GCSE.

These can be accessed here:

<https://filter.resources.wjec.co.uk/en/s/History?qualification=mfwGcse>

We are also in the process of developing teaching notes for all topics within Unit 2, these will be made available during the Autumn term of 2025.

Entry Pathways - Humanities

Entry Pathways Humanities is a qualification that allows learners to achieve credit for their work across units drawn from **History**, Geography and Religious Studies, with assessment criteria designed to complement the WJEC GCSE qualifications in these subjects. Centres can select units that are drawn from one or more of these subjects to allow candidates who may not be able to display a successful outcome at GCSE to achieve an Award, Certificate or Diploma in Humanities at Entry Level 2 or Entry Level 3. Further information about the Entry Pathway Humanities qualification can be found [here](#).

Good luck with the Autumn term, please do get in touch if we can assist you in any way.

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