

# WJEC GCE History – Unit 5 (Non-exam Assessment)

## Suggested questions for centres

Cycle: 2026–2028



The following NEA titles are available for centres to select for the GCE History NEA for **A2 candidates** undertaking the task in the following academic years:

**2025–2026    2026–2027    2027–2028**

Centres are encouraged to offer their learners a choice of four NEA titles that cover a range of histories and a range of geographical areas. All four of those titles may be selected from this document **OR** centres may select some titles from this document and supplement those with titles that they have devised themselves **OR** centres may devise all four titles themselves. All titles, regardless of whether they have been derived from this document must be sent to WJEC for approval, to ensure that they align with the general requirements for completing GCE History. Please refer to the form on the website for further details of this process.

When choosing titles, centres may propose questions that link with their Period and Breadth studies (Units 1 and 3); however, it is not permitted for centres to set titles that overlap with the content of the Depth Study (Units 2 and 4).

The NEA titles used in the 2026–2028 cycle must differ significantly from those approved in the previous three cycles. This is to ensure parity across the duration of the specification as it is not permitted for centres to build up banks of resources and exemplar materials based on the same or similar questions.

By “differ significantly”, WJEC means that the change must be substantial. While the NEA **may be on the same topic**, questions cannot be reversed or moderately adjusted. For example:

*“The Peasants’ War in Germany was the result of religious grievances.” How valid is this assessment of the origin of the Peasants’ War?*

cannot become

*“The Peasants’ War in Germany was the result of economic grievances.” How valid is this assessment of the origin of the Peasants’ War in Germany?*

Essentially, it is the same NEA using one of the likely counterarguments and, almost inevitably, the same sources. However, the following example *is* an acceptable development as it moves the scope of the study from causes to impact and is focused on the Peasants’ War from a different historical perspective:

*“The Peasant’s War in Germany had a limited impact on the course of the early Reformation.” How valid is this assessment of the impact of the Peasants’ War?*

Individual candidates may also devise their own questions if they wish to study an issue which is of interest to them. However, as this facility is to encourage enquiries of a specialist nature, individual candidates are not able to select their proposed titles from the following list.

## Section A – an emphasis on Wales

Centres are advised to select **one** question from this section

1. “Llywelyn ap Gruffudd failed to offer the English crown any serious resistance.” How valid is this assessment of the military efforts of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd between 1256 and 1282?
2. “The Penal Statute of 1402 was the most significant turning point in the relationship between the Welsh and English between 1284 and 1415.” How valid is this assessment of the Penal Statute?
3. “Assimilation and suppression.” How valid is this assessment of the Acts of Union (1536–1543)?
4. “Salesbury’s translation of the New Testament into Welsh in 1567 was the single most important event in Welsh religious life in the sixteenth century.” How valid is this assessment of the impact of William Salesbury’s translation of the New Testament into Welsh?
5. “A failed diplomat.” How valid is this assessment of Sir Edward Carne’s diplomatic career?
6. “Industrialization had a regressive impact on attitudes to, and the treatment of, disabled people.” How valid is this assessment of attitudes to disability in Wales **OR** Wales and England during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?
7. “The ‘romantic friendship’ of the Ladies of Llangollen offers historians an invaluable insight into same sex relationships in nineteenth-century Britain.” How valid is this assessment of the significance of the Ladies of Llangollen to understanding same sex relationships in nineteenth-century Britain?
8. “The Rebecca Riots was a minor disturbance mainly concerned with turnpikes.” How valid is this assessment of the Rebecca Riots in Wales between 1839 and 1843?
9. “The outcome of the Newport Rising of 1839 clearly illustrated the reasons for the ultimate failure of the Chartist movement.” How valid is this assessment of the failure of the Chartist movement?
10. “The women’s suffrage movement in Wales was no more than an extension of the women’s suffrage movement in England.” How valid is this assessment of the women’s suffrage movement in Wales between c.1890 and 1928?
11. “The 1919 race riots were the consequence of poor living standards in urban areas.” How valid is this assessment of the causes of the 1919 Race Riots in **three** of the following cities: Cardiff; Glasgow; Newport; Liverpool; and Swansea?
12. “The establishment of the ‘People’s University’ in Aberystwyth, was the catalyst for a national intellectual revival in Wales during the period from 1872 to 1914.” How valid is this assessment of the contribution made by the setting up of University College Aberystwyth to Welsh intellectual life between 1872 and 1914?

13. "The Davies sisters made a greater contribution to culture in Wales than any other individuals or organisations." How valid is this assessment of the Davies sisters' contribution to culture in Wales during the period from 1900 to 1963?
14. "The First World War transformed the lives of the women of Wales." How valid is this assessment of the impact of the First World War on the lives of Welsh women in the early decades of the twentieth century?
15. "Its impact on Wales was wholly negative." How valid is this assessment of the impact of the Great Depression on Wales up to 1939?

## Section B – an emphasis on Britain and Ireland

Centres are advised to select **one** question from this section

16. "In the dynastic settlement of England, the role of the Empress Matilda was never more than that of daughter, wife and mother." How valid is this assessment of the role of Matilda between c.1120 and c.1155?
17. "The false blame attached to the Jewish community for the murder of William of Norwich in 1144 increased anti-Semitism in England more than any other event during the medieval period." How valid is this assessment of increasing anti-Semitism in twelfth- and thirteenth-century England?
18. "Magna Carta was no more than a piece of propaganda justifying the rebel cause." How valid is this assessment of Magna Carta?
19. "Edward II's failure to conform to medieval gender norms was the most significant contributing factor to the downfall of his reign." How valid is this assessment of the reign of Edward II?
20. "Henry VI's period of mental instability was the main cause of the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses in 1455." How valid is this assessment of the reasons for the outbreak of war in England in 1455?
21. "Sir Isaac Newton was a heretic with a greater interest in alchemy than science." How valid is this assessment of Sir Isaac Newton?
22. "Castlereagh's main aim in foreign policy was the pursuit of Britain's national interests." How valid is this assessment of Castlereagh's foreign policy between 1812 and 1822?
23. "The aims of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834 had largely been achieved by 1850." How valid is this assessment of the operation of the New Poor Law of 1834?
24. "The history of the Irish in England and Wales is one of "historical caricature and stigma" (John Belchem)." How valid is this assessment of Irish immigrants between c.1830 and 1914?
25. "Milner's War." How valid is this assessment of the causes of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902?

26. "The BBC did more to enhance cultural life in Britain than any other organisation." How valid is this assessment of the role of the BBC during the period from 1922 to 1945?
27. "The General Strike was politically rather than economically motivated." How valid is this assessment of the General Strike of 1926?
28. "Edward VIII so thoroughly unsettled the Establishment that his love for Wallis Simpson provided the perfect excuse to remove him from the throne." How valid is this assessment of the Abdication Crisis of 1936?
29. "The causes of The Troubles were mainly economic." How valid is this assessment of the causes of The Troubles in Northern Ireland up to c.1970?

## Section C – an emphasis on Europe

Centres are advised to select **one** question from this section

30. "Following their conquest of Sicily, the Normans implemented a successful policy of Normanization." How valid is this assessment of the Norman pacification, rule and settlement of Sicily?
31. "In medieval Europe, disabilities and physical impairments were largely believed to be a punishment for sin." How valid is this assessment of beliefs about disabilities and physical impairments in Europe in the Middle Ages?
32. "The Crown and Church fomented opposition to Muslims in Spain to justify the *Reconquista* and the Spanish Inquisition." How valid is this assessment of the reasons for the *Reconquista* and the Spanish Inquisition?
33. "The Renaissance was little more than the emergence of new art and sculpture in the Italian states." How valid is this assessment of the Renaissance between the years 1490 and 1600?
34. "The reformation of the Catholic Church had little to do with Martin Luther." How valid is this assessment of the impact of Luther on Catholic Reformation in the first half of the sixteenth century?
35. "Galileo's trial was more about religion than science." How valid is this assessment of the Church's treatment of Galileo Galilei?
36. "Catherine the Great's reputation was unfairly maligned during her own reign and during that of her son, Paul I." How valid is this assessment of attitudes towards Catherine between c.1762 and c.1801?
37. "Robespierre was motivated mainly by the preservation of the Republic." How valid is this assessment of the motivations of Robespierre?
38. "The League of Nations was an abject failure." How valid is this assessment of the impact of the League of Nations between 1920 and 1946?

39. "Hyperinflation was caused primarily by onerous reparation payments." How valid is this assessment of hyperinflation in Germany in 1923?
40. "The outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 was mainly the result of Hitler's aggressive policies." How valid is this assessment of the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939?
41. "Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Science was the most significant factor in the development of LGBTQ+ rights in Germany." How valid is this assessment of the significance of the Institute for Sexual Science in the development of LGBTQ+ rights in Germany/West Germany between c.1919 and c.1991?
42. "Victors' justice." How valid is this assessment of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, 1945–1946?
43. "Influential, yet regressive." How valid is this assessment of the impact of Christian Dior's "New look" on social attitudes to women up to 1960?
44. "The failures of UNPROFOR led to the Srebrenica massacre." How valid is this assessment of the Srebrenica massacre in July 1995?

## Section D – an emphasis on the wider world

Centres are advised to select **one** question from this section

45. "The actions of the European rulers in the Middle East, rather than the actions of Salah al-Din (Saladin), caused the most problems for Richard I during the Third Crusade." How valid is this assessment of the problems facing Richard I during the Third Crusade, 1189–1192?
46. "Baldwin IV's leprosy undermined his reign." How valid is this assessment of the reign of Baldwin IV, King of Jerusalem?
47. "The Mongols under Genghis Khan (Temujin) were ruthless and cruel invaders." How valid is this assessment of Mongol conquests between 1206 and 1227?
48. "Military incompetence was responsible for British defeat in the American War of Independence." How valid is this assessment of the outcome of the American War of Independence?
49. "The Boxer Rebellion in China was a reaction to the reformist policies of the Guangxu (Kuang-hsu) Emperor." How valid is this assessment of the causes of the Boxer Rebellion (1899–1901) in China?
50. "The USSR was responsible for the emergence of the Cold War." How valid is this assessment of the emergence of the Cold War in the period from 1945 to 1953?
51. "The Federal government had the most significant impact on the achievement of civil rights for African Americans." How valid is this assessment of the achievement of civil rights for African Americans in the period from 1945 to 1968?

52. "The pursuit of technological superiority was the main reason behind the space race between the US and the USSR." How valid is this assessment of the space race between the US and the USSR during the period from 1957 to 1991?
53. "The US administration acted irresponsibly for political gain" How valid is this assessment of the Cuban Missile Crisis?
54. "The Stonewall Uprising was a white, middle-class, gay male reaction to police brutality." How valid is this assessment of the Stonewall Uprising?
55. "Ideology took second place to pragmatic economic policy." How valid is this assessment of Deng's Four Modernizations?
56. "Second-wave feminism in the US was a movement of well-educated middle-class women." How valid is this assessment of the US feminist movement in the 1970s?
57. "The origins of the Iranian Revolution, 1978–1979, were political rather than religious." How valid is this assessment of the origins of the Iranian Revolution?
58. "The Rwandan genocide was enabled by the UN's failure to act decisively." How valid is this assessment of the Rwandan genocide?
59. "The global promotion of US products is nothing more than cultural imperialism." How valid is this assessment of the global promotion of US products in **two** non-European countries c.1950 to 2000?