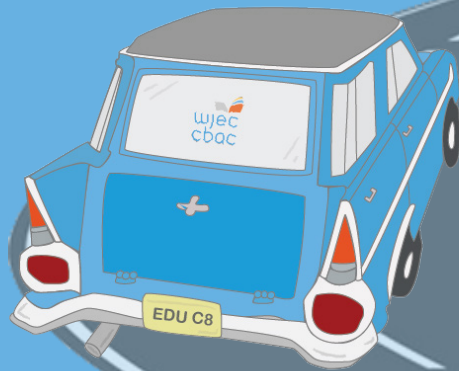


YOUR JOURNEY

TO BECOMING EXAM READY



WELCOME TO AS/A LEVEL HISTORY



Welcome to WJEC GCE History. History is the study of how people have interpreted events that have occurred in the past. Historians study people, places, events and ideas that have occurred, and make interpretations about what has happened. They do this for a range of reasons; to attempt to reach a better understanding of why we are where we are today, to influence others' thoughts and beliefs, and even to promote ideologies – be they peaceful or otherwise.

PLANNING AHEAD...

Period studies - In this AS-level component, you will learn about a period of history that is chosen by your centre. Each period study focuses on events that occurred over a period of approximately 100 years and you will be required to study a range of material that enables you to judge similarities and differences, and continuity and change across that period. Assessed by two examination essays, one of which will require you to focus on a narrow timeframe of approximately 15 to 40 years' duration, and another that will require you to contextualise your understanding over a broader period of approximately 50 to 100 years' duration.

Depth studies - Studied across AS and A-level, you will focus on a much shorter period of history in greater depth. Again, the study will be chosen by your centre. In this study, you will be required to develop the skills of evaluation and analysis and apply these skills to a series of primary and/or contemporary sources, as well as to interpretations of history as presented by various historians. This will be assessed by an examination at the end of the AS year and, should you choose to proceed, another examination at the end of the A-level year.

Breadth studies - In this A-level component, you will study two themes – chosen by your centre – that cover at least 100 years of historical change and development. You will be required to analyse and evaluate the pace and extent of historical change across the duration of the breadth study taught, drawing connections between different aspects of history, and focusing on issues such as cause and significance. In the examination, you will be required to complete two essays that draw upon specific elements of the themes outlined.

Historical interpretations - In this A-level component, you are encouraged to demonstrate and refine your skills of research and analysis as you complete a research-based activity to explain how and why different interpretations are formed. Your centre may choose this study for you, or you may – with the centre's permission and authorisation from WJEC – explore a topic of interest to you. The work is completed independently and submitted as a 3,000–4,000-word response during the A-level year.

What skills will I develop? - The aim for students of GCE History is that they develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history, that they acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of social, cultural, religious and ethnic differences.

During the course, you will improve as an effective and independent learner who is able to critically reflect on knowledge that you have gained and make judgements based on the evidence available, always aware that those judgements are provisional and may change when more evidence comes to light.

GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

TOP TIPS

Try to understand why people did the things they did and thought the things they thought; what issues and events affected their beliefs and shaped their actions and reactions?

Read as widely (and relevantly) as you can.

The more knowledge you have, the more informed your judgements will be.

Learn how to debate and discuss properly – listen to others' views and justify, or amend, your own ideas accordingly.

WELLBEING GUIDANCE

Take baby steps.

Remember this is a journey and you will pick skills and knowledge up along the way.

Take regular breaks from studying.

Exercise, meet friends, spend time with family.

Look after yourself.

Make sure you are getting a balanced diet and get enough sleep.

Try to stay positive.

Even if you don't feel like it, a positive attitude will help you.

Remember that everyone's different.

Try not to compare yourself to others.

HOW ARE YOU ASSESSED?

There are two examinations at the end of the AS year and two examinations at the end of the A-level year. You will also be required to complete an extended piece of writing on historical interpretations during the A-level year.

