

Preparing for GCSE History Exams

History is an enjoyable but challenging GCSE. Every aspect of the course is underpinned by subject knowledge a successful students must develop the ability to retain a lot of information. Although we cover all aspects of the course in class the hard work in terms of revision must be done by the students

Below is a list of topics that we cover as part of our Edexcel GCSE course. It is only a brief overview, full learning checklists for the students to use are available on teams where each exam is set as an assignment. Each assignment includes revision guides and links to GCSE Pod, which is a very effective revision tool.

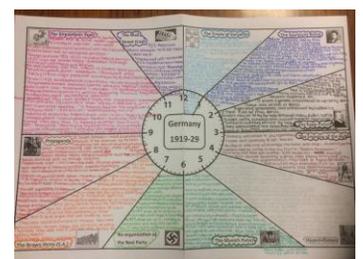
How can I help?

Some evidence suggests that parents have a bigger impact on exam results than any other factor! Offering help and encouragement is important but also a reminder of the importance of hard work and support with organising and carrying out revision

How do I revise?

Everyone learns differently and students should find [a method](#) that works for them. Whatever is used it should be active. **Revision should involve working with notes rather than just reading them** – most people do not learn effectively from simply reading information. Re-organising the information or looking at past exam questions are often effective. Suggested methods could be

- Using [GCSE Pod](#) (all students have a log in – any issues see teacher). This has videos and quizzes of every topic and has success, shown to help improve grades.
- Summarising – creating [flash card notes](#)
- Using [revision clocks](#)
- Creating mind maps or connections diagrams
- Using websites such as [BBC Bitesize](#) that offer interactive learning
- Friends and family! Testing students or getting them to explain a topic or key question is a powerful revision aid
- [Past questions](#) – knowledge is the most important factor in determining factor in success, but exam technique is not far behind. Feedback is offered on tests and mocks and sessions run in school. Use this advice with past questions (available in our revision guides and online) to practice, practice practice....
- Preparing for the mocks and in class tests properly can make a big difference when it comes to revising for the real thing



GCSE History topic overview (full checklists on teams assignments)

<p>Paper 1</p> <p>External examination 30% final mark</p> <p>1 hour and 20 minutes</p> <p>Exam 16th May 2025</p>	<p>Medicine in Britain, c1250–present. This topic focuses on ideas about causes of disease, types of treatment and ways of preventing illness in the following time periods:</p> <p>c1250–c1500: Medicine in medieval England</p> <p>c1500–c1700: The Medical Renaissance in England</p> <p>c1700–c1900: Medicine in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain</p> <p>c1900–present: Medicine in modern Britain</p> <p>and an in depth study of The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches</p>
<p>Paper 2:</p> <p>External examination 40% final mark</p> <p>One session but two separate papers</p> <p>1 hour and 50 minutes</p> <p>Exam 5th June</p>	<p>British depth study Early Elizabethan England</p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <p>Queen, government and religion, 1558–69; The situation on Elizabeth’s accession, The ‘settlement’ of religion, Challenge to the religious settlement, The problem of Mary, Queen of Scots</p> <p>Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad, 1569–88: Plots and revolts at home, Relations with Spain, Outbreak of war with Spain, 1585–88, The Armada</p> <p>Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration, 1558–88: Education and leisure, The problem of the poor, Exploration and voyages of discovery, Raleigh and Virginia</p> <p>Period study : Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91</p> <p>Topics covered</p> <p>Key topic 1: The origins of the Cold War, 1941–58: Early tension between East and West, The development of the Cold War, The Cold War intensifies</p> <p>Key topic 2: Cold War crises, 1958–70: Increased tension between East and West, Cold War crises, Reaction to crisis</p> <p>Key topic 3: The end of the Cold War, 1970–91: Attempts to reduce tension between East and West, Flashpoints, The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe</p>
<p>Paper 3:</p> <p>External examination 30% final mark</p> <p>1 hour 30minutes</p> <p>Exam 10th June</p>	<p>Modern depth study: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39</p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Topic 1 The Weimar Republic 1918-29: early problems, political challenges, crisis of 1923, Recovery under Stresemann • Key topic 2 Hitler’s rise to power, 1919-33: The early years of the Nazi Party, The Munich Putsch and the ‘Lean’ years (1923-29), reasons for growth in support after 1929, Hitler’s appointment as chancellor • Key topic 3 Nazi Control and Dictatorship 1933-39: The Reichstag fire and Enabling Act, The Night of the Long Knives, the creation of the police state, Goebbels and propaganda, opposition to the Nazis • Key Topic 4 Life in Nazi Germany 1933-39: Policies towards women, policies towards young people, employment and living standards, persecution of minorities