

REVISED GCE AS & A LEVEL  
Student Guide  
**History**

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010

history

# Student Guide: History

Studying GCE History will give you the opportunity to explore key political, economic and social events which have helped shape our world today. It will build upon your understanding of the past and ability to make links and draw comparisons with or across different periods and aspects of the past. The AS course can be taken as a final qualification or as the first half of the A Level qualification. If you wish to obtain a full A Level qualification, you must complete the second half of the course referred to as A2.

## Q. Why study History?

By studying GCE History you will be able to build upon your knowledge and understanding of past events and the impact on those events on our world today. This in turn gives you a better understanding of the consequences of past actions on civilisations and a greater empathy for people of different cultures today.

History is much more than reading about past events. This course can help develop and deploy a range of important skills such as collecting and evaluating information, independent thought, weighing up the evidence that you have found and putting a case together to support your conclusions.

## Q. What do I need to be able to take this course?

There are no prior knowledge requirements for undertaking this course in History. Many students enjoy success in A Level History despite not holding a GCSE in the subject.

## Q. What will I study?

There are two units at AS and two at A2. In each of the units at AS and A2, there are a number of options and you will study one option in each unit.



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<b>AS 1</b>	In AS 1, you will investigate specific historical questions using sources, information and reaching validated conclusions. The options are as follows:  Option 1: England 1520-1570 Option 2: England 1603-1649 Option 3: England 1815-1868 Option 4: Unification of Italy and Germany 1815-1871 Option 5: Germany 1918-1945	<b>AS 2</b>	In the AS 2 unit, you will study significant individuals, societies, events, developments and issues. The options are as follows:  Option 1: Spain and Europe 1556-1592 Option 2: The Ascendancy of France in Europe 1660-1714 Option 3: Challenge and Crisis in Ireland 1821-1867 Option 4: France 1815-1871 Option 5: Russia 1903-1941 Option 6: Italy 1914-1943
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If you wish to continue on to A Level, you will need to sit a further two units.

<b>A2 1</b>	In A2 1, you will study change and/or development, making links and drawing comparisons across different aspects of the period studied. The options are as follows:  Option 1: Anglo-Spanish relations 1509-1609 Option 2: Crown and Parliament in England 1603-1702 Option 3: Liberalism and Nationalism in Europe 1815-1914 Option 4: Unionism and Nationalism in Ireland 1800-1900 Option 5: Clash of Ideologies 1900-2000	<b>A2 2</b>	In A2 2 you will investigate specific historical questions through sources, using information and reaching substantiated conclusions. The options are as follows:  Option 1: England 1570-1603 Option 2: Ireland 1607-1691 Option 3: Ireland 1775-1800 Option 4: Partition of Ireland 1900-1925
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## Q. How will I be assessed?

There are a total of four units in this course, two at AS and two at A2. The breakdown of the units is detailed in the table below.

Unit	Type of Assessment
<b>AS 1</b> <b>Historical Investigations and Interpretations</b>  Worth 50% of AS      25% of A Level	1 hour 30 minutes external examination paper  <i>Available in the January and Summer series</i>
<b>AS 2</b> <b>Conflict and Change in Europe</b>  Worth 50% of AS      25% of A Level	1 hour 30 minutes external examination paper  <i>Available in the January and Summer series</i>
<b>A2 1</b> <b>Change Over Time</b>  Worth 20% of A Level	1 hour and 15 minutes external examination paper  <i>Available in the January and Summer series</i>
<b>A2 2</b> <b>Historical Investigations and Interpretations</b>  Worth 30% of A Level	2 hour external examination paper  <i>Available in the Summer series</i>

## Q. What can I do with a qualification in History?

History can open up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education and interesting and rewarding careers. Through following this course, you will have the opportunity to develop skills that are transferable and are highly sought after by employers.

If you wish to continue with your study of History at degree level, you will need to complete the full A Level course comprising the two units at AS together with the two at A2.

You will have the opportunity to develop your skills and increase your self confidence through researching, organising information, having a questioning approach to the evidence before you, arguing a case, reaching balanced conclusions based on the evidence and writing in a clear and coherent way. These are skills which are highly desired by employers and will help you in further education, to succeed in your chosen career as well as in everyday life.

Many History students go on to have interesting and challenging careers, for example in the media, politics, library or information work, writing or editorial work, teaching, lecturing, business or civil service.

An interest in history may direct you to a perhaps a more specialist career as an archaeologist, archivist working in a records office, historical researcher, solicitor, barrister, museum curator or genealogist.

## How can I find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about studying history.

These include:

- Teachers at your school or college
- Students who are already studying the subject
- [www.ccea.org.uk/history](http://www.ccea.org.uk/history)
- The Historical Association - [www.history.org.uk](http://www.history.org.uk)
- Careers advisor
- Library
- UCAS [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) or CAO [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for details on entry requirements for university courses

To view the full specification and the full range of support material available for GCE History, please visit the History microsite [www.ccea.org.uk/history](http://www.ccea.org.uk/history)

