



Rewarding Learning

GCSE History

STUDENT
GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Our revised GCSE History qualification has been designed following consultation with teachers, students, higher education representatives and employers. This ensured that we have designed a qualification that meets your needs as a learner and motivates you to continue studying History beyond Key Stage 3. Our qualification is designed to provide you with the opportunity to consider the relevance of the past to gain a deeper understanding of the world in which you live.

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

In Year 10, you have important decisions to make about the subjects you wish to study at GCSE. This decision is made all the more difficult by the long list of subjects from which you can choose. There are many different reasons why students choose to study GCSE History, such as their teacher or the influence of their parents. However, there are many other important reasons why History is an excellent subject to study. The following are just a few of them.

- You will learn about key individuals and the impact of their actions and decisions.
- You will investigate big questions, such as:
 - Why did it take 30 years for the Troubles in Northern Ireland to end?
 - Why did so few people try to stop Hitler?
 - Why did the Cuban Missile Crisis bring the world to the brink of nuclear war?
 - What was the significance of 9/11 for international relations?
- You will appreciate that there is not simply one version of the past but many different and often competing interpretations.
- You will develop skills of working with evidence from the past to construct arguments and make informed judgements.

The mixture of stimulating content and the opportunity to develop valuable skills makes GCSE History one of the most popular subject choices for students in Northern Ireland.



KEY FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION

- It has two written examinations and no controlled assessment.
- You have the opportunity to sit an examination at the end of Year 11 and, if you do not do as well as expected, you can repeat this examination in Year 12.
- The structured examination papers contain a mixture of question styles, ranging from short response to essays.
- It has clearly written and accessible examination questions and mark schemes

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

UNIT ASSESSMENT	AREAS OF STUDY
<p>Unit 1: Modern World Studies in Depth and Local Study</p>	<p>In Section A, you have a choice of either Option 1: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–45 or Option 2: Life in the United States of America, 1920–33. You will answer five questions. The paper includes short response questions, structured questions and an essay question.</p> <p>In Section B, you have a choice of either Option 1: Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1920–49 or Option 2: Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965–98. You will answer six questions. The paper includes source-based questions, short response questions and a structured question.</p> <p>This unit is assessed in a 1 hour 45 minute written examination paper that is worth 60 percent of the overall GCSE qualification.</p>
<p>Unit 2: Outline Study</p>	<p>This unit covers International Relations, 1945–2003. You will answer six questions. The paper includes source-based questions, a structured question and an essay question.</p> <p>This unit is assessed in a 1 hour 15 minute written examination paper that is worth 40 percent of the overall GCSE qualification.</p>



Unit 1

Modern World Studies in Depth and Local Study

60%



Unit 2

Outline Study

40%



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?



By studying History, you will develop many important skills. These will not only help you when studying other subjects but also support you in your future education and in the workplace. For example, you will develop skills in researching and organising information, analysing and weighing up evidence and reaching a conclusion that you can substantiate. You will also develop the ability to think critically and ask questions, identify patterns and trends and learn how to formulate and write a coherent argument. These are important skills that will help you in a range of other subjects. You will also spend time discussing your ideas with others, working on group tasks, presenting your ideas and working independently, all of which are very important life skills required in the workplace.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN HISTORY?

Studying History can lead to a diverse range of further study opportunities and careers. While many of these are not directly related to the content you learn in History, it is the skills you develop when you are ‘thinking like a historian’ that make History a well-respected and attractive subject to universities and employers. Law, politics, civil service, business, marketing, finance, accountancy, journalism, economics, teaching, academia, insurance, social research, crime investigation, social work, archaeology and heritage offer a snapshot of the many career avenues that studying History can lead you down.

