

# Why choose GCSE History?

History is continuously changing the world around us and historic events have helped to shape our society.

Studying GCSE History will help you to answer important questions such as:

- Why do wars happen?
- Why do we have a welfare system?
- How have we come to live in a multi-cultural society?

Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future.

## You'll learn valuable skills...

Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you'll learn a range of handy skills that will help you with A-levels and future work. These include:

- excellent communication and writing skills
- how to construct an argument
- research and problem skills
- investigation and problem-solving skills
- analytical and interpretation skills.

## ... and useful facts

- Ever wondered why people wear poppies in November?
- Did you know that until 1928 not all women could vote?

Find out more  
[aqa.org.uk/history](http://aqa.org.uk/history)

## Look ahead at possible future careers

Studying history can lead on to some exciting career options, including:

- Journalism
- Law
- Business
- Politics
- Archaeology
- Marketing
- Teaching.



## What topics will you study?

### AQA GCSE History

You'll study **four** elements, split over **two** exams:

- one period study
- one thematic study
- one wider world depth study
- one British depth study including the historic environment.

#### Assessment 1: Understanding the modern world

##### Section A: Period studies.

Choose **one** from these four options:

- 1A America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation
- 1B Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship
- 1C Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and communism
- 1D America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality.

##### Section B: Wider world depth studies

Choose **one** from these five options:

- Conflict and tension, 1894–1918
- Conflict and tension, 1918–1939
- Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972
- Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975
- Conflict and tension, 1990–2009 (New).

#### Assessment 2: Shaping the nation

##### Section A: Thematic studies

Choose **one** topic from these three options:

- 2A Britain: health and the people, c1000–present
- 2B Britain: power and the people, c1170–present (New)
- 2C Britain: migration, empires and the people, c790–present (New).

##### Section B: British depth studies including the historic environment

Choose **one** topic from these four options:

- Norman England, c1066–c1100 (New)
- Medieval England: the reign of Edward I, 1272–1307 (New)
- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603 (New)
- Restoration England, 1660–1685 (New).

## Assessment

At GCSE there are two exams – Paper 1 and 2 are each worth 50% and last for 1 hour 45 minutes each. These exams consist of short answer questions and longer, essay type questions.

## Entry requirements

If you want to know more, please talk to your teacher.