

HISTORY

Exam board: OCR

Method of Assessment: 2 Exams worth 75% (Paper 1 45% and Paper 2 30%) and 25% Controlled Assessment.

Length of Exams: Paper One: 2 hrs, Paper Two: 1½ hrs

Breakdown of units

Paper One: Aspects of International Relations and Depth Study

This paper consists of two sections: An international depth study, and an international breadth study.

Depth Study: The USA 1919-41

This depth study considers the USA between the wars, looking at the Roaring Twenties, Great Depression and the New Deal. The course follows four key questions:

- How far did the US economy boom in the 1920s?
- How far was the US a free and equal society in the 1920s?
- What were the causes and consequences of the Wall Street Crash?
- How successful was the New Deal?

The students will assess the politics, economy and society of the USA in the interwar period, considering the strengths and weaknesses of the 1920s economy, Nativism, the Red Scare, Prohibition, the New Deal and its opponents. These topics will be assessed through a combination of source and non-source questions.

Aspects of International Relations: The Cold War 1945-75

This breadth study considers the Cold War through three case studies:

- Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- Who won the Cuban Missile Crisis?
- Why did the USA fail in Vietnam?

The students will study key events such as the post-war conferences at Yalta and Potsdam, Berlin blockade, Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid, Cuban Revolution and Bay of Pigs invasion. These topics will be assessed through a combination of source and non-source questions.

Paper Two: How far did British society change 1939-75?

This source paper considers three key topics:

- The experiences and impacts of immigrants in Britain and the emergence of a multicultural society by 1975
- The changing role of women and the extent of progress for women's rights by 1975
- The birth of the teenager and changes to the lives of teenagers by 1975

This paper requires a close study of source material in order to understand these social changes and to debate the extent and nature of change. The final paper will relate to one of these three topic areas.

Controlled Assessment

The Controlled Assessment is a piece completed under timed conditions. The topic can change depending on the year group but has recently considered Germany 1918-1945. This topic looks at several areas:

- The Weimar Republic – the difficult first years
- The recovery of the Weimar Republic
- The rise of the Nazis and the fall of the Weimar Republic
- Nazi control of Germany
- Living in Nazi Germany

The tasks will require candidates to carry out an historical enquiry using their findings from a range of sources, interpretations and representations.

Overlap with other subjects: As such a broad subject, History has natural cross over with many humanities, social sciences and arts subjects, such as Geography and Media Studies. The discipline develops a critical understanding of events and interpretations and therefore fits well with other such subjects, like English Literature. As an essay-based subject, History also works well with other long-answer subjects reliant on analysis and evaluation.