



Upton Court  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# History Department

## Starting your GCSEs

“To not know what happened in former times is to continue always a child.” Cicero

“History is a people’s memory, and without memory man is demoted to the lower animals.” Malcolm X





## History

### Preparing for your GCSEs

#### Exam board: AQA

Paper 1 focuses on understanding the modern world. The course examines Germany (1919-1945). Students will learn about Kaiser Wilhelm II and Germany's role in World War One. In addition, a focus will be placed on the immediate problems facing Germany after the war and in particular why the Weimar Republic collapsed and the Nazis. In addition students will learn about conflict and tension in Asia (Korea and Vietnam) 1950-1975. Paper 2 focuses on Britain. Specifically, students will study the Elizabethan period and a thematic unit spanning almost a millennium focusing on power and the people.

## Achieving your Potential

Preparing for exams can seem daunting but the Department provides many tailored revision resources and support to aid learning. Here are some of the ways in which you can make the most of support:

- Join any Edmodo revision groups teachers invite you to; these have many resources specific to our exam board.
- Purchase or download any tailored revision materials created by the Department.
- Use in-class and homework opportunities to create revision resources such as cue cards, quizzes and podcasts in order to consolidate learning.
- Follow current events/world situations.

In order to succeed in History students will need to have an extensive vocabulary of key terms, and have strong literacy skills (spelling, punctuation and grammar).

#### Strategies for improving literacy:

- ✓ READ!
- ✓ Green pen checking all written work.
- ✓ Redrafting work.
- ✓ Self-assessing work against the assessment criteria.
- ✓ Independent reading of a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- ✓ Keep a reading log, summarizing and analysing your reading.

## Strategies for Learning

### Consolidating Learning



Research shows that reviewing information soon after it has been learnt allows students to remember much more. Returning to the learning from a lesson later in the same day will allow you to be much more successful.

### Organising Learning



You will complete a significant amount of classwork, homework, independent work and other activities in preparation for your GCSE exams. Successful students find ways to organise their time and learning effectively so that it is of use to them.

#### COPE Strategies:

- Create flash cards after each lesson or at the end of each week covering key content.
- Review class notes within 24 hours of the lesson.
- Have a special folder for only History.

### COPE Strategies:

- Write a blog to share your learning with others.
- Support KS3 students to strengthen your skills.
- Create a homework timetable.
- Title and date your work clearly.
- Complete exam questions in timed conditions.
- Use banks of practice questions to create a booklet of essay/writing plans.

### Preparing Revision Materials

Successful students prepare for revision and revise earlier topics throughout the year – this means creating revision materials throughout the year in preparation for the exam period. They will also revise constantly so they do not become rusty on earlier topics. They use in class assessments and Pre-Public exams to perfect their revision strategies.



### Exam Practice

Ultimately, your success will be measured in the public exams at the end of Year 11. Successful students practise many past papers, find effective ways to monitor and improve their exam technique, and are very familiar with the mark scheme and how it will be applied.



## Structure of exams

### Assessments

#### Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

##### What's assessed

In Section A there is a choice of **four** period studies, each with a focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50 year period.

In Section B there is a choice of **five** wider world depth studies. These focus on international conflict and tension.

##### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- 50% of GCSE

##### Questions

- Section A – six compulsory questions (40 marks)
- Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks)
- Plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar

#### Paper 2: Shaping the nation

##### What's assessed

In Section A there is a choice of **three** thematic studies, which look at key developments in Britain over a long period.

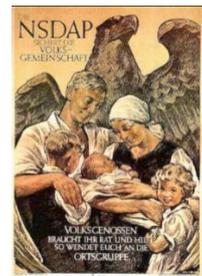
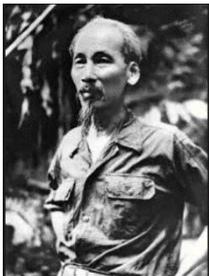
In Section B there is a choice of **four** British depth studies incorporating the study of a specific historic environment.

##### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- 50% of GCSE

##### Questions

- Section A – four compulsory questions (40 marks)
- Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks)
- Plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar



## Useful Websites

The AQA website provides useful information on the specification, practice papers and mark schemes for History. [www.aqa.com](http://www.aqa.com)

Active History is an excellent website with interactive games and simulations. [www.activehistory.com](http://www.activehistory.com)

John D Clare has an all encompassing website that is easy to follow and contains a lot of information specifically on the topics we cover [www.johndclare.net](http://www.johndclare.net)

The **Doddle** website is monitored by teachers. It contains a range of resources and quizzes to support students' learning and teachers use this to set work for classes and individual students to help them improve. <http://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/>

You should also make regular use of resources on BBC Bitesize and look out for EDMODO invitations from your teacher.

## Extended Reading

The History Department has its own library with fiction as well as non-fiction books that can be borrowed at any time. In addition there are also Horrible Histories magazines and The Week (current events magazine).

Watching History documentaries on the discovery channels can help widen knowledge and understanding of the subject. But also visiting the following cultural places will allow students to develop a growth mind set on the subject.

[National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery](#)

[British Library](#)

[British Museum](#)

[Runnymede](#)

[Hampton Court Palace](#)

[Hastings \(battle site\)](#)

[Imperial War Museum](#)

[Churchill War Rooms and Museum](#)

[National Trust Sites](#)

[English Heritage Sites](#)

[Victoria and Albert Museum](#)