

HISTORY

Advanced Level Subject Guide

Exam Board: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

YEAR 1

UNIT ONE - students learn about the United States from 1865-1920.

This unit continues logically from the GCSE in-depth study on the American West. Some of the key issues are:

- The weaknesses of the US Government following the American Civil War
- Politics and Corruption in the Gilded Age
- Social, regional and ethnic division, with particular reference to the position of African-Americans
- Economic growth and the rise of corporation
- The dominance of laissez-faire economics and the ending of the Frontier
- The limits of foreign policy and continuing isolationism
- The reaction against Big Business
- Progressivism, populism and Wilson's New Freedom
- The rise of American economic and industrial dominance
- Mass immigration, urbanisation and the position of African-Americans
- Engagement in foreign policy—imperialism and the First World War
- The USA by 1920: Economic power, social and ethnic divisions, political reaction and renewed isolationism



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSE passes 9-5. There is no need to have studied History at GCSE level; however, those who have should have achieved at least Grade 5.

"A student who studies History will enjoy finding out about the growth of the USA into a superpower and the development of Britain in the modern day"



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UNIT TWO - students learn about British history between 1951 and 1979. In some ways this unit continues logically from the GCSE source-based study on the Impact of War on Britain.

Some of the key issues are:

- The Conservative Governments of the 1950s, reasons for Conservative dominance and the eventual downfall of the Conservatives in 1964
- The relative decline of the British economy and the reasons for this
- Social developments, including the challenge to the political Establishment, changing attitudes towards women and immigration and the emergence of the teenager and youth culture
- Britain's foreign relations with Europe, the USA and the USSR
- Key moments in world history affecting Britain, such as the Suez Crisis and decolonisation
- The Labour Governments of the 1960s, problems with industrial relations, the start of the Troubles in Northern Ireland
- Liberal reforms—the end of the death penalty, divorce reform, the legalisation of abortion and homosexuality
- Educational reform in the 1960s
- Social change—the expansion of the mass media, the growth in leisure time, the permissive society
- Attitudes to the Vietnam War, Rhodesian independence and the Cold War
- The Heath and Callaghan governments between 1970 and 1979, including industrial relations and the continuing Troubles in Northern Ireland
- 1970s society—the progress of feminism, youth cultures, race and immigration, environmentalism
- Britain's entry into Europe; Britain's relations with the USA, USSR and China



Would you enjoy History A-Level?

Look at the following questions:

- Do I like History?
- Do I want to know more about the world I live in?
- Do I enjoy learning about real life stories?
- Do I enjoy leisure activities based on History? (E.g. film, computer game, visiting castles)
- Am I good at History? (i.e. likely to get at least a Grade 5 GCSE Grade)
- Do I enjoy debating issues and find out more about controversial events?
- Do I want to know about real people?
- Do I want to know about the past of my own country?
- Do I want to get a good job?
- Do I want to study a subject that doesn't limit my career plans?

If you can answer **YES** to any of these, you should think about doing History.



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COURSE OVERVIEW

YEAR 2

Students in Year 13 will study further aspects of British and American history.

These will build on the Y12 courses by looking at the USA between 1920 and 1975 and at Britain between 1979 and 2007.

Some of the key issues are:

- Domestic politics in the USA in the 1920s, the Wall Street Crash and Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal
- Society and culture in the USA - the Jazz Age, the role of women, the failure of Prohibition
- Social, regional and ethnic divisions, African-Americans and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan
- Foreign policy: Isolationism, the Second World War
- The post-war presidents: Truman to Nixon
- Social and economic change: Consumerism, McCarthyism, civil rights and other protest, youth culture
- Foreign policy: Cold War, the Vietnam War
- The position of the USA in 1975
- The impact of Thatcherism, internal Labour divisions and the formation of the SDP
- Continuing troubles in Northern Ireland, Europe and the USA, the Falkland Islands
- John Major and the legacy of Thatcher
- The realignment of Labour and the 1997 victory
- The Labour Governments under Tony Blair; conservative divisions
- The Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland
- Multiculturalism in Britain
- Foreign Affairs: Iraq, the war on terror and Britain's position in the world by 2007

INDIVIDUAL STUDY

Students will also undertake an individual study on an aspect of history of their own choice. This choice will be made from aspects not included in the other modules, must consider a period of 100 years and must make a 200 year period in total (including the other two units), such as:

- To what extent did Macedonia, Greece and Persia benefit between the years 357 BC and 255 BC as a result of Alexander the Great's reign?
- To what extent was British economic policy between 1649 and 1776 responsible for the American Revolution?
- To what extent was slavery in the USA 1619-1861 the main factor in the outbreak of the American Civil War?
- Within the context of Tudor foreign policy 1485-1588, to what extent was the attempted Spanish invasion of England in 1588 the result of religious differences?



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CAREERS & NEXT STEPS

Here are some examples of careers where an education in History is expected and would be directly useful:

- Antique Dealer
- Archaeologist
- Architect
- Archivist
- Art Restorer
- Book Retailer
- Restoration Work
- Cartographer
- Museum Work
- Conservation Officer
- ..and yes, History Teacher

But employers also find History a useful subject in the following jobs:

- Accountant
- Banker
- Broadcaster
- Civil Servant
- Economist
- Environmental Officer
- Information Officer
- Journalism
- Legal Work
- Librarian
- Local Government Work
- Military Work
- Police Work
- Planning Officer
- Political Researcher
- Primary School Teacher
- Publisher
- Solicitor
- Religious Work
- Town Planner
- And many others...

