

Subject: Welcome to GCSE History (Edexcel) – Key Information and How to Support Your Child

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to welcome your child to their GCSE History course. History is a vibrant, highly respected subject that helps students develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deeper understanding of the world today.

Throughout Year 10 and 11, your child will be following the **Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History** specification. To help you support them over the next two years, I wanted to share an overview of the course, how they will be assessed, and practical ways you can support their learning at home.



Course Overview & Topics

The Edexcel specification is divided into four main topics spread across three examination papers at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1: Thematic Study & Historic Environment (30% of total GCSE)

- **Topic:** Medicine Through Time, 1250-present and
- **Environment:** The British sector of the Western Front, 1914- 18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
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Paper 2: Period Study & British Depth Study (40% of total GCSE)

- **British Depth Study:** Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- **Period Study:** Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (30% of total GCSE)

- **Topic:** Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Note: There is **no coursework** in GCSE History. All assessment takes place via written exams at the end of Year 11.



Key Skills for Success

To achieve their potential in History, students need to master two main areas:

1. **Precise Knowledge:** Remembering key dates, individuals, events, and cause/consequence chains.
2. **Exam Technique:** Structuring written arguments, evaluating source utility, and analyzing historical interpretations.



How You Can Support Your Child at Home

You do not need to be a history expert to help your child succeed! Here are a few impactful ways you can support them:

- **Regular Retrieval Practice:** Ask them to teach you about a topic they studied this week, or quiz them using flashcards.
- **Encourage Reading/ Viewing:** Encourage reading around the topics—whether fiction, non-fiction, or history documentaries (e.g., BBC iPlayer, YouTube history channels).

- **Organized Revision:** Ensure they keep their class notes tidy and divided by paper/topic from the very start of the course.



Recommended Resources

- **Revision Guides:** We recommend the *Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History* topic guides. (If you are entitled to Pupil Premium Funding, then this will be given to your child). [Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE History Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 Revision Guide and Workbook incl. online revision and quizzes - for 2026, 2027 exams](#)
- **Online Resources:**
 - **BBC Bitesize:** Excellent for topic summaries and quick quizzes (Edexcel specification).
 - **Seneca Learning:** Great for regular retrieval quizzes. This will be set at regular intervals for homework, but students can also do this independently.
 - **Edexcel Past Papers:** Available on the Pearson website closer to exam periods.

* **Google Classroom** will also provide materials for your child. Please encourage them to refer to this.

We are excited to guide your child through this course. If you have any questions or concerns at any point during the year, please do not hesitate to contact me or their history teacher.

We will start the course by studying Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany.

We would recommend that your child watch the following films/ documentaries to compliment their learning.

Hitler: The Rise of Evil, 2003 (a film featuring Robert Carlisle as Hitler)

The Nazis: A warning from history. (The first 3 episodes compliment the course which they are studying) available on BBC iplayer.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Nia Jarvis

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