

Content Overview:
Assessment Overview:

British period study and enquiry: (unit group 1) Learners study one of the 13 units available, each of which constitutes a substantial and coherent element of British History. The enquiry is a source-based study which immediately precedes or follows the outline period study	British period study and enquiry (Y101-Y113) 50 marks 1 hour 30 minute paper	25% of total A level
Non-British period study: (unit group 2) Learners study one of the 24 units available, each of which constitutes a coherent period of non-British History.	Non-British period study (Y201-Y224) 30 marks 1 hour paper	15% of total A level
Thematic study and historical interpretations: (unit group 3) Learners study one of the 21 units available. Each unit comprises a thematic study over a period of at least 100 years, and three in-depth studies of events, individuals or issues that are key parts of the theme. Learners will develop the ability to treat the whole period thematically, and to use their detailed knowledge of the depth study topics to evaluate interpretations of the specified key events, individuals or issues	Thematic study and historical interpretations (Y301-Y321) 80 marks 2 hour 30 minute paper	40% of total A level
Topic based essay: (unit Y100)* ** Learners will complete a 3000–4000 word essay on a topic of their choice, which may arise out of content studied elsewhere in the course. This is an internally assessed unit group. A Title(s) Proposal Form must be submitted to OCR.	3000–4000 word essay (Y100/03 or 04) Non exam assessment 40 marks	20% of total A level



Unit Y105: England 1445–1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII	
Enquiry Topic: Wars of the Roses 1445–1461	
Key Topics	Content Learners should have studied the following:
The Outbreak of the Wars 1445–1450	The Government of England c.1445; the growth of opposition, the issue of taxation, Henry VI's advisors, patronage, Cade's rebellion (1450); Henry's illness (1453–1455); the problem of the nobility; Somerset and York; failure in France to 1450 and its impact on Government.
The early actions of Richard, Duke of York	York's return from Ireland (1450); York's attempted coup (1452); reaction to the birth of Henry's heir (1453); York's first Protectorate (1454); York's removal from the Protectorate; York's response to the actions of Margaret of Anjou and the second Protectorate (1455).

War and the defeat of Richard, Duke of York	Battle of St Albans (1455); capture of Henry VI; restoration of York to Protectorate; Government of Margaret of Anjou; the role of Neville; the 'love-day' (1458); flight of the Yorkists; 'Parliament of the Devils'; Battle of Northampton (1460); York as heir; death of York (1460) and Edward's claim to the throne.
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British Period Study: England 1461–1509	
Key Topics	Content Learners should have studied the following:
Edward IV's first rule and the crisis of 1470–1471	Edward IV's management of the government; Edward's relations with the nobility; unrest; marriage to Elizabeth Woodville including the Earl of Warwick; relations with France; Edward's fall from power and the restoration of Henry 1470–1471 including the role of Margaret of Anjou.
Edward IV and Richard III 1471–1485	Edward IV's management of government; relations with the nobility; finances; Richard III's accession; claim to the throne, the Princes in the Tower, the removal of the Woodvilles and Hastings; the Buckingham rebellion; government under Richard III, policy towards the nobility; defeat by Henry Tudor and reasons for his overthrow.
Henry VII's rule in England 1485–1509	Henry's claim to the throne; Yorkist opposition, Lovel, Stafford and Suffolk, the Pretenders, Simmel and Warbeck; relations with the nobility, rewards and punishments; royal finances and their administration, opposition to taxation in Yorkshire and Cornwall; administration, the personnel, Councils, local government and parliament.
Henry VII's foreign policy 1485–1509	England's position in Europe in 1485, Henry VII's aims; relations with Burgundy, France, Scotland and Spain; treaties of Medina del campo, Redon, Etaples and Ayton; marriage negotiations; trade agreements, including Magnus Intercursus and Malus Intercursus

Unit Y221: Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963

Key Topics	Content Learners should have studied the following:
<p>The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan 1933</p>	<p>Consequences of the First World War; impact of the Treaty of Versailles; the Weimar Constitution; coalition governments; challenges to Weimar; Communist revolts, Kapp Putsch, Munich Putsch, invasion of the Ruhr, hyperinflation; Stresemann and the ‘Golden Years’; Dawes and Young Plans, economic recovery, foreign loans, political stability, improvements to working and living conditions; the impact of the Great Depression, elections and governments 1928–1933; rise and appeal of Nazism, role of propaganda and Hitler; Papen, Schleicher and ‘backstairs intrigue’; Hitler’s appointment as Chancellor.</p>
<p>The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939</p>	<p>Hitler’s consolidation of power, the Reichstag Fire, March Elections and Enabling Act, Gleichschaltung, creation of the one-party state, Night of the Long Knives, army oath and death of Hindenburg; system of government and administration; censorship and propaganda, machinery of terror, including courts, SS, Gestapo; treatment of opposition; religious policies; economic policies, Schacht’s New Plan, Goering’s Four Year Plan, public works, conscription and autarky; German Labour Front; ‘Strength through Joy’; policy towards women; education and policy towards youth; racial policies to 1939; benefits of Nazi rule.</p>
<p>The impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939–1949</p>	<p>The war economy and Total War; impact of bombing; war and racial policies, the Final Solution; morale and rationing; opposition and resistance; consequences of the Second World War; Cold War, Potsdam, division of Germany, Bizonia and developments in the Soviet Zone, currency and the Berlin Blockade.</p>
<p>Divided Germany: The Federal Republic and the DDR 1949–1963</p>	<p>The creation of West Germany and the DDR; the Basic Law and constitution of West Germany; the 1949 election; the economic miracle; political and social stability; foreign policy, rapprochement with France, EEC, rearmament, NATO, policy towards USA and USSR, DDR; elections of 1953, 1957 and 1961; Berlin Wall; Adenauer’s decline and the Der Spiegel Crisis of 1962; West Germany in 1963; the GDR in 1949; uprising 1953; economic change, land reform, collectivisation, nationalisation and heavy industry; social change, churches, Trade Unions, education and youth.</p>

Thematic Study: Russia and its Rulers 1855–1964

Key Topics	Content Learners should have studied the following:
The nature of government	Autocracy, dictatorship and totalitarianism, developments in central administration; methods of repression and enforcement; the extent and impact of reform; the nature, extent and effectiveness of opposition both before and after 1917, changes in local government; attitude of the Tsars, Provisional Government and Communists to political change; the extent of political change.
The impact of dictatorial regimes on the economy and society of the Russian Empire and the USSR	Changes to living and working conditions of urban and rural people including the impact on the peasants of Emancipation, Land Banks, famines, NEP, collectivisation and the Virgin Land scheme, the impact of industrial growth under the Tsars, War communism, NEP and the Five Year Plans on industrial workers; limitations on personal, political and religious freedom; reasons for and extent of economic and social changes.
Impact of war and revolution on the development of the Russian Empire and the USSR	The effects of the following wars on government, society, nationalities and the economy: the Crimean War, the Japanese War, 1905 Revolution, 1917 Revolutions, First World War, Second World War, the Cold War.
Russia: Empire, nationalities and satellite states	The Polish Revolt 1863; expansion in Asia; Russification; Finland; the Baltic provinces; impact of the First World War and the Treaty of Brest Litovsk; Russo-Polish War; Communist advance into Eastern and Central Europe after the Second World War.

Non exam assessment: Topic based essay (Unit Y100)

Overview:

The History A unit Y100 Topic based essay is an independently researched essay of 3000–4000 words in length. This unit is a non exam assessment. The work will be marked by centres and moderated by OCR.

Choice of essay topic:

The essay should include an explanation and analysis of different perspectives on a clearly-stated historical issue, drawing on a range of primary and secondary material. It will therefore utilise the skills and understanding developed elsewhere in the course. As an independent enquiry using a range of sources and interpretations, the essay will require students to develop an understanding of how historians work. The essay must be based on the independent investigation of historical issue. The issue may arise from the study of a period or topic in unit groups 1–3, or it may be on a topic, or from a period, that the learner has not studied as part of the A level course. The topic for this essay cannot be the same as that chosen for the in-depth interpretation topics studied within Unit Group 3. Learners should choose their own essay title, but all titles must be checked by OCR.