

AQA History A Level

We follow the AQA History course which is studied over two years, with the exam at the end of Year 13.

AQA A Level History "has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. They will gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging topics available to them throughout the course will provide them with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A Level historians". ([ref: aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/introduction](http://ref.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/introduction))

A Level Topics

- **Unit 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1917**
- **Unit 2: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–1979**
- **Unit 3: Historical Investigation (Personal Study)**

Topics Covered per Half Term

Terms	Year 12
Autumn 1	<p>Unit 1 - Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was Russia like in 1855?• How backward was Russia?• Russian government/ Alex II• Emancipation/Alex II Reforms• Impact of reforms• Opposition to Alex II• Alex III <p>Unit 2 – Background 1945-51 and The Affluent Society, 1951–1964</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attlee’s government and the Welfare state• Conservative governments and reasons for political dominance.• Economic developments 1951-64 <p>AO1 – Understanding organisation and communication in essays/Analysis and Substantiated judgment (PEEL)</p> <p>AO2 - Understanding the value of sources – What makes a source valuable</p> <p>AO3 – What makes a source convincing</p>
Autumn 2	<p>Unit 1 - Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894 and The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaction/ Russification • Witte/ Economy • Opposition to Alex III • Changes Alex II to Alex III/ Evaluation of Alex III • 1905 revolution • October Manifesto • Dumas <p>Unit 2 - The Affluent Society, 1951–1964</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social developments, 1951-64 (Living standards, affluence, consumerism) • Social developments, 1951-64 (Class, the 'establishment', women) • Social developments, 1951-64 (Immigration, racism, teenagers) • Foreign relations 1951-64 (Nuclear Weapons, Suez) • Foreign relations 1951-64 (Decolonialism, Wind of Change speech, EFTA and EEC) <p>AO2 - Understanding the value of sources – Provenance and Tone</p> <p>AO3 – Understanding interpretations – Understanding how to organise and communicate a sources answer</p>
<p>Spring 1</p>	<p>Unit 1 - The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917 and The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to Dumas • Stolypin • Russia in 1914 • Rasputin • February Revolution <p>Unit 2 - The Affluent Society, 1951–1964 and The Sixties, 1964–1970</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Labour divisions, 1951-64 • Reasons for Conservatives fall from power. • Wilson and the Labour governments. • Economic policies and problems; devaluation; industrial relations; the trade unions. • Other domestic policies; Labour divisions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beginnings of the Troubles in Northern Ireland; the end of post war consensus; loss of the 1970 election. • Liberal reforming legislation. <p>AO1 – Understanding change and continuity</p> <p>AO2 - Understanding the value of sources – Content and argument</p> <p>AO3 - Supporting an argument with facts</p>
Spring 2	<p>Unit 1 - The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional Government • October Revolution • Historiography of 1917 • Lenin's Russia, ideology and change • Stalin's rise, ideology and change <p>Unit 2 - The Sixties, 1964–1970 and The End of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and cultural change (Mass media, scientific dev., leisure activities) • Social and cultural change (Youth culture, permissiveness, protest) • Social and cultural change (Women, immigration and race) • Foreign relations and policies towards the USA, (Vietnam, East of Suez) • Heath's Government; Industrial relations and the miners' strikes. <p>AO1 – Understanding cause, consequence and significance</p> <p>AO2 - Understanding the value of sources – Using contextual understanding to judge source value</p> <p>AO3 - Using contextual understanding to judge convincingness – does it make sense for the period?</p>
Summer 1	<p>Unit 1 - The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964 and the emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consolidation of Bolshevik authority • The development of the Stalinist dictatorship. <p>Unit 2 - The End of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Troubles in Northern Ireland, including the Sunningdale Agreement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour governments of Wilson and Callaghan. • Society in the 1970s. (The progress of feminism; the Sex Discrimination Act.) • Society in the 1970s. (Race and immigration.) • Society in the 1970s. (Youth; environmentalism.) <p>AO1 – Understanding change and continuity</p> <p>AO2 - Understanding the value of sources – Content and argument</p> <p>AO3 - Supporting an argument with facts</p>
<p>Summer 2</p>	<p>Unit 2 - The End of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979 and The Impact of Thatcherism, 1979–1987</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign relations. (Entry into the EEC and relationship with Ireland) • Foreign relations (USA, USSR and China) • The Thatcher governments. • Thatcher’s economic policies and their impact. (Monetarism) • Internal Labour divisions and the formation of the SDP. • The Falklands War <p>Non-Examined Assessment (Personal Study)</p> <p>AO1 – How to come up with a good historical question</p> <p>AO2 – How to find primary/contemporary sources</p> <p>AO3 – How to find secondary sources/Interpretations</p> <p>AO2 - Understanding the value of sources – Provenance and Tone</p> <p>AO3 – Understanding interpretations – Understanding how to organise and communicate a sources answer</p>

Topics Covered per Half Term

Term	Year 13
Autumn 1	<p>Unit 1 - The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic developments: Lenin's decrees • Economic developments; the Stalinist economy; • Economic developments; collectivisation and the Five-Year Plans • Social developments: effect of Leninist/Stalinist rule on class, women, • Social developments: effect of Leninist/Stalinist rule on young people, religion and national minorities • Social developments: propaganda and cultural change • Opposition: Factions • Opposition: The Red terror and the Purges <p>Unit 1 - The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941 and The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Political Condition of the Soviet Union by 1941 • The Economic and Social Condition of the Soviet Union by 1941 • Political Authority, opposition and the state of Russia in Wartime • The effect of war on Stalin, the government and 'the people' <p>Political authority and government to 1953: High Stalinism & the revival of terror.</p> <p>Non-Examined Assessment (Personal Study)</p> <p>AO1 – How to balance an argument in the non-sources questions</p> <p>AO2 – How to balance an argument in the sources question</p> <p>AO3 – How to balance an argument in the interpretations question</p>
Autumn 2	<p>Unit 2 - The impact of Thatcherism, 1979–1987</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland and the Troubles 1979-90 • Thatcher’s economic policies and their impact. (privatisation, deregulation)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Impact of Thatcherism on society. (Sale of council houses; miners' strike and other industrial disputes.) • Foreign affairs. (the 'special relationship' with the USA; moves to end the Cold War; Thatcher as an international figure.) • Foreign affairs. (Attitudes to Europe, including Thatcher's policies; divisions within the Conservative party over Europe.) <p>Unit 2 - Towards a new Consensus, 1987–1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Poll Tax; extra-parliamentary opposition. • The fall of Thatcher as leader and her legacy. • Major as leader (Economic developments, including Black Wednesday and its impact; political policies; political sleaze, scandals and satire.) • Approach to Northern Ireland; Conservative divisions. • Realignment of the Labour Party under Kinnock, Smith and Blair. • Social issues. (The extent of social liberalism; anti-establishment culture.) • Social issues. (The position of women.) • Social issues. (Race Relations.) <p>Non-Examined Assessment (Personal Study)</p> <p>AO1 – How to organise the NEA</p> <p>AO2/3 – How to use primary sources and interpretations in the NEA</p>
<p>Spring 1</p>	<p>Unit 1 - The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The destruction of Opposition and the cult of personality • The power vacuum after Stalin's death • Khrushchev's rise to power: policies & ideology • De-Stalinisation, political and party changes • Industrial change from Stalin to Khrushchev • Agricultural change and the Virgin Lands scheme <p>Unit 2 - Towards a new Consensus, 1987–1997</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign affairs. (Relations with Europe, including the impact of the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty.) • Foreign affairs. (Interventions in the Balkans; contribution and attitude to the end of the Cold War.) • The Reasons for Labour Victory in the 1997 Election <p>Non-Examined Assessment (Personal Study)</p> <p>AO1 – How to write a final paragraph</p> <p>AO2 – How to structure an A2 sources question</p> <p>AO3 – How to structure an A2 interpretations question</p>
Spring 2	<p>Unit 2- The Era of New Labour, 1997–2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blair as leader, character and ideology; constitutional change. • Domestic policies; Brown and economic policy. • Northern Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement. • Social issues. (Workers) • Social Issues (Women and youth.) • Social Issues (The extent to which Britain had become a multi-cultural society.) • Foreign affairs. (Attitudes to Europe) • Foreign affairs (The ‘special relationship’ with the USA; military interventions and the ‘war on terror’; Britain’s position in the world by 2007.) • The Conservative Party. (Leaders and reasons for divisions; reason for electoral failures in 2001 and 2005.) <p>AO1 – Using sustained analysis and a consistent argument through an answer</p> <p>AO2 – Understanding the value of sources – Tone and emphasis</p>
Summer 1	Revision
Summer 2	Final Exams