

Supporting your child: GCSE AQA History

Starting GCSE History:

The process of starting GCSEs can be very daunting and overwhelming this guide will aim to help you as the Parent/Career to provide the best support possible for your child.

For GCSE History your child will study the AQA History Specification. Your child will be given a break down of this but additional resources and information can be found here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

In class, we are using the following textbooks, additional resources are available to learners through their school Kerboodle account. This means they can access practice exam questions, revision summaries and keyword glossaries from home.

If you would like to purchase copies of the books or the equivalent revision guides they are available on Amazon.



Assessment:

Two written exams at the end of the course.

Paper 1 – Understanding the modern world – 1st June 2020

Written exam: 2 hours

84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))

50% of GCSE

Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation – 4th June 2020

Written exam: 2 hour

84 marks (including 4 marks (SPaG))

50% of GCSE

Topics covered:

Across the two papers, the following topics will be taught.

Paper 1

Period study: America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality

Wider World Depth Study: Conflict and Tension: The Inter-war years, 1918-1939

Paper 2

Thematic Study: Britain: Migration, Empires and the People: c790 to present day

British Depth Study and Historic Environment: Norman England c1066-c1100

Additional skills required:

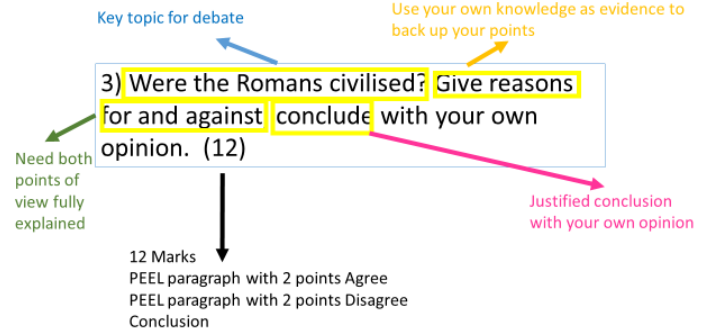
Research – independent reading around the subject

Contextual Knowledge – an understanding of the time period in general

Decoding assessment questions

Even if you know the topic inside out, there is still a chance that a Learner may mis-read or misinterpret an assessment question. In class, we have adopted the decoding method to break down an assessment question before attempting to answer it. Using colours and highlighters is a great way to show the different parts of a question. Once the question is answered, Learners can go back and check they have answered all parts. Encourage your child to practise this in all subject areas.

Decode the following question:



Keywords, subject specific terminology and Essay Structure



It is important that Learners use subject specific terminology to support their written responses. This shows a thorough understanding of the topic area being discussed. At GCSE Learners can get an additional 8 marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar so it is important to learn the spellings of these key terms too. These marks can also be gained through well organised written responses.

Essay skills and structure is also very important in gaining these marks; Learners must know facts and statistics about events, places, people and dates. It is important that these basic facts are learnt and ready to be added to exam answers in an organised and well-planned structure.

Learners are given keyword glossaries and case study lists for every topic – try turning them into revision quiz cards for quick recall.

Revision, Revision, Revision!

Revision is going to be the key to your child’s success at GCSE. You can help them by providing a quiet space away from distractions to help them at home. Revision does not have to be boring but it is about finding the right method for your child. In class we have taught a number of methods from revision cards, mind mapping, note taking methods and interactive resources use ICT. The best way to revise is for 20 minutes at a time and then a short change of activity. Using quizzes and practise exams is great but it is important to know and revisit the content first.

Further contextual knowledge can be gained by wider reading of factual books and watching documentaries. It is important that learners can place historical events into their wider context. Use the Knowledge Maps to support with this.

Useful revision links:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxjk4j6>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/assessment-resources>

<https://www.senecalearning.com/>

GCSE AQA Oxford History Revision Guides for the topics listed above

