

Introduction:

Welcome to the A Level History programme of study. You have chosen to study a course that will build upon skills developed at GCSE and engage you in learning about the past and come to a better understanding of the present. The course content of A-Level, however, is significantly different to that of GCSE so in order to make an informed decision about your progression, it is important that you thoroughly prepare.

The shift from GCSE to A Level is significant in terms of the challenge. Part of this challenge is the focus on independence. In History, the expectation is that you will take on a greater responsibility for your learning. Hopefully this guide will help you with some starting points to ease the transition from GCSEs to A Level.

Course details: [AQA A Level History](https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/specifications/AQA-7041-7042-SP-2015.PDF)

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/specifications/AQA-7041-7042-SP-2015.PDF> **You should read this document in more detail, but the overview is provided below.**

Paper 1: Breadth Study: The quest for political stability in Germany, 1871-1991

What's assessed?

- The study of significant historical developments over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations

How will it be assessed?

- Written exam – 2 hours 30 minutes
- 80 marks
- 40% of the A-Level

Questions

- *Section A: Source Question*
Compulsory source question (30 marks)
- *Section B: Essay Questions*
Two essay questions to be answered from a choice of three questions (25 marks each)

Paper 2: Depth study: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007.

What's assessed?

- The study in depth of a period of major historical change or development and associated primary evidence.

How will it be assessed?

- Written exam – 2 hours 30 minutes
- 80 marks
- 40% of the A-Level

Questions

- *Section A: Source Question*
Compulsory source question (30 marks)
- *Section B: Essay Questions*
Two essay questions to be answered from a choice of three questions (25 marks each)

Paper 3: Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

What's assessed?

- A personal study based on a topic. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years.

How will it be assessed?

- Word count: 3,500-4,500 words
- 40 marks
- 20% of A-Level
- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA

Preparation Tasks

Task 1: Germany

1. **BBC Podcast:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04dwbwz/episodes/downloads>
Have a listen to “*Bismarck the Blacksmith*” and “*Reichstag*”. Feel free to download and listen to any others.
2. Research and produce a summary of the unification of Germany, 1864-71 emphasising the role of Bismarck, Prussia and the military.
3. Identify the major federal states and different geographical regions of Germany on a map with specific reference to areas where non-German minorities lived, especially Danes, Poles and French.

Task 2: Britain

1. **BBC Podcast:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p02qv6cj> VE Day 9 minutes – listen to the mood of the country in 1945.
2. **Labour in power 1945-51:** Research the following and produce a mini project of your findings:
 - Labour’s landslide victory
 - Labour’s creation of the welfare state
 - The economy under Labour
 - Labour’s achievements, legacy and defeat (1951).
3. **Watch** Andrew Marr: The Making of Modern Britain. Available on YouTube. Watch the pre-WW2 episodes.

Task 3: Open Learning Courses

You should engage with these Open Learning courses and receive the certificates of participation. Though the learning process, you should comprehensively engage with the tasks and produce learning notes.

Introductory

How do Empires work? <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/how-do-empires-work/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

Studying the arts and humanities <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/studying-the-arts-and-humanities/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

War memorials and commemoration <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/visual-art/war-memorials-and-commemoration/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

Intermediate

Early Modern Europe: An introduction <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/early-modern-europe-introduction/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

Advanced

The Roaring Twenties: Europe in the inter war years <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/roaring-twenties-europe-the-interwar-period/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

Task 4: Start to create a working glossary document so that you can collect all the key terms you learn in one place, making it easier to revise in the future.

Democracy	Authoritarian	Inflation	Kleindeutsch	Grossdeutsch	Militarism
Electoral	Manifesto	Left-Wing	Right-Wing	Legitimacy	Constituency
Electorate	First Past the Post	Zollverein	Marginal Seat	Minority Government	Coalition
Mandate	Keynesianism	Consensus	Hierarchy	Unification	Laissez-faire
Conservatives	SPD	National debt	Capitalism	Communism	Constitution
Budget deficit	Repression	Parliamentary Sovereignty	Opposition	Executive	Parliament
Legislation	Backbenchers	Federalism	EU	Interpretation	Cabinet

We hope that you enjoy working through these tasks and gaining an insight into A-Level study.

This programme is very different to GCSE study and requires dedication from you to your research and personal study. However, you will find it interesting and rewarding – so we look forward to seeing you in September.