

The **GCE A-Level in History (AQA)** is a comprehensive course that provides students with a deep understanding of significant historical events, periods, and themes. It develops analytical and evaluative skills, encouraging students to engage critically with evidence, interpretations, and historical debates. This course lays a strong foundation for higher education and careers requiring research, critical thinking, and effective communication.

Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** A-Level (Level 3).
 2. **Assessment:**
 - Two written exams (80% of the qualification).
 - One non-exam assessment (20%).
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Content of Study

The course covers a broad spectrum of historical themes and periods, focusing on both British and world history.

Component 1: Breadth Study (40% of A-Level)

Examines the development of a significant historical process or theme over an extended period.

1. **Key Areas of Study:**
 - Political, economic, and social developments.
 - The role of key individuals, groups, and institutions.
 - Continuity, change, cause, and consequence in historical processes.
 2. **Examples of Topics:**
 - The Tudors: England, 1485–1603.
 - The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975.
 3. **Assessment:**
 - Written exam (2 hours 30 minutes).
 - Two essay questions and one interpretation-based question.
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Component 2: Depth Study (40% of A-Level)

Explores a specific historical period in depth, focusing on events, individuals, and their significance.

1. **Key Areas of Study:**
 - Detailed examination of key events and their impact.
 - Analysis of historical interpretations and perspectives.
2. **Examples of Topics:**
 - The English Revolution, 1625–1660.
 - Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment, 1682–1796.
3. **Assessment:**

- Written exam (2 hours 30 minutes).
 - Two essay questions and one source analysis question.
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Component 3: Historical Investigation (Non-Exam Assessment) (20% of A-Level)

An independent research project based on a historical issue, question, or controversy.

1. Task:

- A 3,000–4,500-word essay analyzing an aspect of history over 100 years.

2. Examples of Themes:

- The causes and consequences of revolutions.
- The impact of imperialism or the role of ideology in shaping historical events.

3. Assessment:

- Internally marked and externally moderated.
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Skills Developed

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyzing evidence, interpretations, and differing perspectives.
 - **Research Skills:** Conducting independent study and engaging with primary and secondary sources.
 - **Argument Construction:** Developing and presenting reasoned arguments.
 - **Analytical Skills:** Identifying patterns, causes, and consequences in historical processes.
 - **Communication:** Writing clear, structured essays and presenting complex ideas effectively.
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Assessment Overview

1. **Component 1:** Breadth Study (40%).
 2. **Component 2:** Depth Study (40%).
 3. **Component 3:** Historical Investigation (20%).
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Career Pathways

This qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in history, archaeology, politics, law, or international relations.
 2. **Professional Training:** Careers in teaching, museum curation, journalism, or heritage management.
 3. **Employment:** Roles in research, public policy, media, or business requiring analytical and communication skills.
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Who Is It For?

- Students with a passion for understanding the past and its relevance to the present.
- Those who enjoy researching, debating, and analyzing historical events and ideas.
- Learners aiming for careers in academia, policy, law, or any field requiring critical thinking and effective communication.