

A Level History in Year 12

Course Content

A-Level History in Year 12 will focus on the following components.

- Component 1: Breadth study
- Component 2: Depth study

Component 1: Breadth study 1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975.

Part one: from Civil War to World War, 1865–1920

The Era of Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865–1890

- The weaknesses of Federal Government: Johnson, Grant and the failure of Radical Reconstruction
- The politics of the Gilded Age and the era of weak presidents; political corruption
- Social, regional and ethnic divisions: divisions within and between North, South and West; the position of African-Americans
- Economic growth and the rise of corporations: railways; oil; developments in agriculture; urbanisation
- Laissez-faire dominance and consequences; the impact of the ending of the frontier. The limits of foreign engagement and continuation of isolationism: the continuation of the Monroe Doctrine; territorial consolidation (Alaska) and tensions over Canada

Populism, progressivism and imperialism, 1890–1920

- Political tensions and divisions: the reaction against Big Business at national and state level
- The ideas and influence of Bryan, Roosevelt and Taft; Populism, Progressivism and Wilson's New Freedom
- Economic change and developments: the rise of US dominance as an economic and industrial power and the consequences of this
- Social developments: mass immigration and urbanisation and their consequences; the position of African-Americans
- Foreign affairs: imperialism; engagement in international affairs; Spain and the Philippines; the Panama Canal; the First World War, neutrality and entry
- The USA by 1920: economic power; social and ethnic divisions; political reaction and renewed isolationism

Component 2: Depth study: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Part one: building a new Britain, 1951–1979

The Affluent Society, 1951–1964

- Conservative governments and reasons for political dominance: Churchill, Eden, Macmillan and Home as political leaders; domestic policies; internal Labour divisions; reasons for Conservatives' fall from power

- Economic developments: post-war boom; balance of payments issues and 'stop-go' policies
- Social developments: rising living standards; the impact of affluence and consumerism; changing social attitudes and tensions; class and 'the Establishment'; the position of women; attitudes to immigration; racial violence; the emergence of the 'teenager' and youth culture
- Foreign relations: EFTA and attempts to join the EEC; relations with and policies towards USA and USSR; debates over the nuclear deterrent; Korean War; Suez; the 'Winds of Change' and decolonisation

The Sixties, 1964–1970

- Wilson and the Labour governments: Wilson's ideology and leadership; economic policies and problems; devaluation; industrial relations; the trade unions; other domestic policies; Labour divisions; the beginning of the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland; the end of post-war consensus; loss of 1970 election
- Liberal reforming legislation: private members' bills and the end of capital punishment; divorce reform; the legalisation of abortion; the legalisation of homosexual relations; educational reform
- Social and cultural change: the expansion of the mass media; growth in leisure activities; the impact of scientific developments; the reduction in censorship; progress towards female equality; changes in moral attitudes; youth culture and the 'permissive society'; anti-Vietnam war riots; issues of immigration and race
- Relations with and policies towards USA, particularly issue of Vietnam; response to world affairs and relations with Europe; decolonisation including 'withdrawal East of Suez' and Rhodesia.

The end of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979

- Heath's government: Heath as leader; political and economic policies; industrial relations and the miners' strikes; the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland, including the Sunningdale Agreement
- Labour governments of Wilson and Callaghan: political, economic and industrial problems and policies; problems of Northern Ireland
- Society in the 1970s: progress of feminism; the Sex Discrimination Act; race and immigration; youth; environmentalism
- Britain's entry into and relations with Europe; the state of the 'special relationship' with USA; attitudes to USSR and China

Year 12 Internal UCAS Exam Week

Students will sit two papers:

Component 1: Breadth study (1 hr 45 mins)

Component 2: Depth study (1 hr 45 mins)

Specification and Examination Board:

History: 7041/7042

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/spec-at-a-glance>