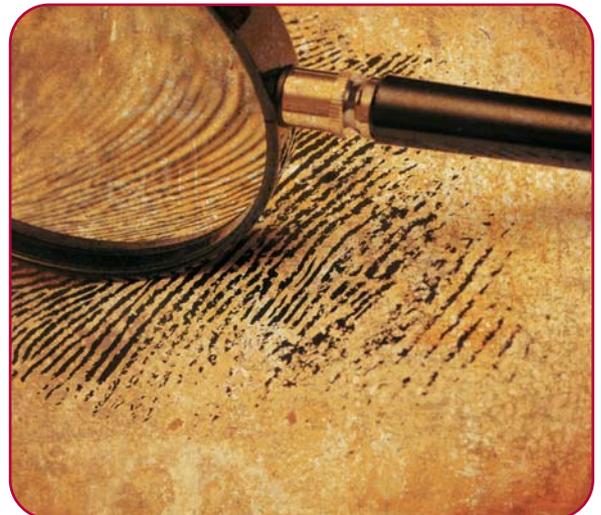




AS/A Level History B

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

By shifting the emphasis of GCE History firmly to the “why” and “how”, alongside the more traditional “what”, of the historian’s work, this brand new specification represents a distinct and exciting development in the study of history at AS/A level. It provides clear continuity from GCSE, and at the same time sound preparation for higher education. Exciting and innovative historical topics have been chosen, through which candidates study four crucial aspects of the subject: theories of explanation and the uses and limitations of source materials at AS, and of interpretations and of historical significance at A2.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- Provides a new and sophisticated set of objectives, based on up-to-date consultation allowing candidates to engage with current debates.
- Linked to recent developments in GCSE History and to approaches to History at Higher Education level.
- Well-designed and structured specifications based on four distinct, clearly-focussed units delivering overall progression.
- Three of the four units are externally assessed.
- Candidates are well prepared for the study of History after school.
- Exciting and emotive content which will appeal to and engage candidates.

AS Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	F981: Historical Explanation - British History F982: Historical Explanation - Non British History Candidates will explore the theory and practice of explanation - of ideas, actions and events - located in topics spanning 20-40 years (British and non-British topic available). Options include the Reign of Elizabeth I, 1558-1603, and Russia in Turmoil 1900-1921.	1 hour 30 min exam AS Level – 50% A Level – 25%
Mandatory	F983: Historical Evidence - British History F984: Historical Evidence - Non British History This unit considers the issues surrounding the use of evidence. Candidates will study a topic of approximately 100 years in duration - from a choice of British and non-British options - and in examination will use sources to test an hypothesis. Options include the Black Death in England up to 1450, and Race and American Society 1865-1970s.	1 hour 30 min exam AS – 50% A Level – 25%

A2 Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	F985: Historical Controversies - British History F986: Historical Controversies - Non British History Building on earlier units, candidates study how and why historians disagree about the past - exploring how different methodologies lead to different interpretations. Candidates will then consider different approaches to their chosen topics. Options include: Different interpretations of British Imperialism 1850-1950; Different American Wests 1840-1900; Debates about the Holocaust.	3 hour assessed task A Level – 30%
Mandatory	F987: Historical Significance In this final unit, candidates examine the vocabulary of significance and the different means of measuring significance. Candidates prepare an individual study (of up to 3000 words) backed by a research diary to demonstrate their understanding and methods.	Coursework A Level – 20%

Candidates must complete 4 units; either F981 or F982, F983 or F984, F985 or F986 and F987. Rules of combination apply, please see specification for further details.

How is this qualification assessed?

Three of the four units in this new format are externally examined. The unit on Historical Significance is marked internally and externally moderated.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination will be available in January 2009.

A2

First examination will be available in January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of OCR courses to introduce the new specification will be available as well as an annual INSET programme to support teachers and provide feedback on recent examinations.

Publishers

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Heinemann is publishing materials for the 2008 A Level History B specification.

Resources

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Schemes of work
- Sample assessment materials
- Resource lists
- Sample lesson plans

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk