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GCSE History changes from September 2013

Accreditation of GCSE History A and B

September 2013

Last year all awarding bodies were asked to strengthen their GCSE History qualifications for first teaching from September 2013.

OCR GCSE History A and B specifications have now been accredited.

We have published details of the changes, revised specifications and new specimen assessment materials (SAMs) now accredited by Ofqual.

To keep up to date, you can register for email updates at ocr.org.uk/updates.

GCSE History A – Schools History Project

SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATION CHANGES FOR FIRST TEACHING SEPTEMBER 2013

Unit	Content	Assessment
Unit A951 becomes Unit A954	<p>Medicine Through Time and Crime and Punishment Through Time development study options are retained, with very minor changes to the content (reflecting the move of some content to Unit A955 – see below).</p> <p>No changes have been made to the depth studies.</p>	<p>There are very minor changes to the assessment of this unit.</p> <p>The source-based question on the development study will be reduced from 3 sub-questions to 2 sub-questions. The question will still be worth 15 marks in total.</p> <p>There are no other changes to the assessment of this unit.</p>
Unit A952 becomes Unit A955	<p>We have changed content to meet Ofqual's requirement for 25% coherent British history.</p> <p>There will be two options – Public Health 1800–1914, and Protest and Reaction 1800–1914. Content of these options will be based mainly on content previously covered in the Medicine Through Time and Crime and Punishment Through Time development studies.</p>	<p>There are some changes to the assessment of this unit.</p> <p>There will no longer be pre-release of the topics to be examined.</p> <p>Written Paper</p> <p>1 hour 30 mins – 50 marks (plus 3 SPaG)</p> <p>Question Paper</p> <p>5 questions based on the candidate's chosen option:</p> <p>Questions 1–4: source focused</p> <p>Question 5: 16-mark thematic question on specified issue across time. Candidates answer from their own knowledge and the sources on the paper.</p>
Unit A953 remains Unit A953	<p>There are no changes to the content of this unit.</p>	<p>There are no changes to the assessment of this unit.</p> <p>For the new specifications, for the 2015 controlled assessment tasks (onwards) approval will be needed.</p> <p>Use of OCR's controlled assessment consultancy service in order to confirm suitability of the final title and the programme of study is compulsory.</p> <p>For both GCSE History A and B, proposal forms must be received by OCR by 31 January in the year of entry.</p>

GCSE History B – Modern World

SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATION CHANGES FOR FIRST TEACHING SEPTEMBER 2013

Unit	Content	Assessment
Unit A971 becomes Units A011–A017	The content of the units remains the same with the restrictions to combinations which have already been publicised (see table on following page).	There are no changes to the assessment of these units.
Unit A972 becomes Units A021 and A022	There are no changes to the content of these units.	<p>There are minor changes to the assessment of these units.</p> <p>Written Paper</p> <p>1 hour 30 mins – 50 marks (plus 3 SPaG)</p> <p>Question Paper</p> <p>5 questions based on the candidate's chosen option:</p> <p>Questions 1–4: source focused</p> <p>Question 5: 16-mark question on specified issue across the period studied. Candidates answer from their own knowledge and the sources on the paper.</p>
Unit A973 becomes Unit A010	<p>The four existing controlled assessment options are being replaced with four new options: Germany 1918–1945, Russia 1905–1941, USA 1919–1941 and USA 1945–1975 Land of freedom?</p> <p>It will not be possible to do the same depth study and controlled assessment, eg Germany depth study in A011 cannot be taken with A010 Germany controlled assessment option.</p>	<p>There are some changes to the assessment of this unit.</p> <p>Tasks will be specific and centres will no longer be required to adapt them.</p> <p>3 tasks will be set for each option for each examination series.</p> <p>For the new specifications, for 2015 controlled assessment task (onwards) approval will be needed.</p> <p>Centres will be required to receive confirmation from OCR regarding the suitability of the sources selected through the Use of Sources Checking Form. Submission of the form is mandatory.</p> <p>link to be updated on the website shortly</p> <p>For both GCSE History A and B, proposal forms must be received by OCR by 31 January in the year of entry.</p>

GCSE History B – Modern World

OPTIONS FOR FIRST TEACHING SEPTEMBER 2013

You are free to choose from all of the unit options, but to meet Ofqual's requirements (for first teaching September 2013, first assessment in June 2015) there are some rules of unit combination to the range of options you can choose from within the GCSE History B specification:

DEPTH STUDY A choice of one of seven	A011–A017 CORE (Aspects of International Relations)		
	One of three		
	The Inter-War Years 1919–1939	The Cold War 1945–1975	A New World? 1948–2005
A011 (currently known as A971/11) <i>Germany 1918–1945</i>	x	✓	✓
A012 (currently known as A971/12) <i>Russia 1905–1941</i>	x	✓	✓
A013 (currently known as A971/13) <i>The USA 1919–1941</i>	x	✓	✓
A014 (currently known as A971/14) <i>Mao's China c. 1930–1976</i>	✓	x	✓
A015 (currently known as A971/15) <i>Causes and Events of the First World War 1890–1918</i> <i>(NB. This unit cannot be combined with Unit A021, How was British society changed, 1890–1918?)</i>	✓	✓	✓
A016 (currently known as A971/16) <i>End of Empire c. 1919–1969</i>	✓	✓	✓
A017 (currently known as A971/17) <i>The USA, Land of Freedom? 1945–1975</i>	✓	x	✓

x = not available in this unit ✓ = available in this unit

Example: candidates entering for the Germany Depth Study paper A011 cannot select The Inter-War Years 1919–1939 for the Aspects of International Relations core question. The choice for these candidates would be between The Cold War or A New World?



Supporting you through the changes

Our aim is to help you at every stage and we want to reassure you that we will continue to support you through the changes.

- Sign up to receive email updates at ocr.org.uk/updates to stay updated on GCSE History.
- Free support materials and resources will be made available online to help you deliver the new accredited qualifications.

Need more help?

If you have any questions regarding the changes, our team are happy to help. You can contact them on **01223 553998** or at general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Contact us

Keep up to date on the latest news by registering to receive e-alerts at www.ocr.org.uk/updates

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