

Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please [use the specification on our website](#) alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

Overview of changes for GCSE (9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World)

Ofqual have confirmed that students taking GCSE (9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World) in summer 2021 **will not have to study and will not be assessed on all the content of the full course:**

- **All** students will be required to study and will be assessed on the **Period study (International Relations)**.
- Students will study and be assessed on **two** out of the three remaining studies: the **Non-British Depth Study**, the **Thematic Study**, and the **British Depth Study and Study of a Historic Environment**. Centres are free to choose which two of these studies they enter their students for.
- Each study will be assessed separately with its own exam paper in its own timetabled slot.

GCSE(9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World) for academic year 2020/21

Students must complete the **Period Study (International Relations)** and **two** other studies from a choice of three to be awarded OCR's GCSE (9–1) History A in **summer 2021**.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>Period Study</p> <p>J410/14 International Relations: the changing international order 1918–c.1975</p>	<p>Compulsory</p> <p>50 Marks + 10 marks for SPaG</p> <p>1 hour 15 minutes written exam</p>	<p>33.3% of total GCSE (9–1)</p>
<p>Non-British Depth study</p> <p>One from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J410/01 China 1950–1981: The People and the State J410/02 Germany 1925–1955: The People and the State J410/05 South Africa 1960–1994: The People and the State J410/06 The USA 1919–1948: The People and the State J410/07 The USA 1945–1974: The People and the State 	<p>Optional</p> <p>50 marks</p> <p>1 hour written exam</p>	<p>33.3% of total GCSE (9–1)</p>
<p>Thematic Study</p> <p>One from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J410/08 Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010 J410/09 Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014 J410/10 War and British Society c.790 to c.2010 	<p>Optional</p> <p>50 marks</p> <p>1 hour written exam</p>	<p>33.3% of total GCSE (9–1)</p>
<p>British Depth study and a study of a historic environment</p> <p>One from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J410/11 The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688–c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration J410/12 The English Reformation c.1520–c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750 J410/13 Personal Rule to Restoration 1629–1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750 	<p>Optional</p> <p>50 marks</p> <p>1 hour 15 minutes written exam</p>	<p>33.3% of total GCSE (9–1)</p>

- All of the 2021 question papers will be equally weighted in terms of historical content, before the addition of SPaG marks. The percentages shown above do not take in the ten marks for SPaG on the compulsory **Period Study (International Relations)**.
- We have removed 10 marks from the **Period Study (International Relations)**. Question 4 will be worth 10 marks, not 20. The requirements of the question will remain the same - see the revised specimen assessment materials.
- We have added an extra 10 mark question to the **Non-British Depth Study**, with similar requirements to Question 6. See the revised specimen assessment materials.

What has changed?

What has changed – Specification	Detail																																										
Assessment Objective weightings for summer 2021	<p>The relationship between the Assessment Objectives and the components are shown in the following tables:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="619 432 1481 824"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">J410 History A - without Non British Depth Study</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>AO1</th> <th>AO2</th> <th>AO3</th> <th>AO4</th> <th>SPAG</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Period Study (Intl Relations)</td> <td>17</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> <td>25</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thematic Study</td> <td>20</td> <td>30</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>British Depth Study and Historic Environment</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>20</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>52</td> <td>53</td> <td>20</td> <td>25</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>34.7%</td> <td>35.3%</td> <td>13.3%</td> <td>16.7%</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	J410 History A - without Non British Depth Study						Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	SPAG	Period Study (Intl Relations)	17	8	0	25	10	Thematic Study	20	30	0	0		British Depth Study and Historic Environment	15	15	20	0		Total	52	53	20	25			34.7%	35.3%	13.3%	16.7%	6.7%
J410 History A - without Non British Depth Study																																											
Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	SPAG																																						
Period Study (Intl Relations)	17	8	0	25	10																																						
Thematic Study	20	30	0	0																																							
British Depth Study and Historic Environment	15	15	20	0																																							
Total	52	53	20	25																																							
	34.7%	35.3%	13.3%	16.7%	6.7%																																						
	<table border="1" data-bbox="619 857 1481 1261"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">J410 History A - without Thematic Study</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>AO1</th> <th>AO2</th> <th>AO3</th> <th>AO4</th> <th>SPAG</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Period Study (Intl Relations)</td> <td>17</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> <td>25</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non British Depth Study</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>British Depth Study and Historic Environment</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>20</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total marks</td> <td>52</td> <td>43</td> <td>30</td> <td>25</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>34.6%</td> <td>28.7%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>16.7%</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	J410 History A - without Thematic Study						Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	SPAG	Period Study (Intl Relations)	17	8	0	25	10	Non British Depth Study	20	20	10	0		British Depth Study and Historic Environment	15	15	20	0		Total marks	52	43	30	25			34.6%	28.7%	20%	16.7%	6.7%
J410 History A - without Thematic Study																																											
Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	SPAG																																						
Period Study (Intl Relations)	17	8	0	25	10																																						
Non British Depth Study	20	20	10	0																																							
British Depth Study and Historic Environment	15	15	20	0																																							
Total marks	52	43	30	25																																							
	34.6%	28.7%	20%	16.7%	6.7%																																						
	<table border="1" data-bbox="619 1294 1481 1675"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">J410 History A - without British Depth Study and Historic Environment</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>AO1</th> <th>AO2</th> <th>AO3</th> <th>AO4</th> <th>SPAG</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Period Study (Intl Relations)</td> <td>17</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> <td>25</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non British Depth Study</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thematic Study</td> <td>20</td> <td>30</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total marks</td> <td>57</td> <td>58</td> <td>10</td> <td>25</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>38%</td> <td>38.6%</td> <td>6.7%</td> <td>16.7%</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	J410 History A - without British Depth Study and Historic Environment						Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	SPAG	Period Study (Intl Relations)	17	8	0	25	10	Non British Depth Study	20	20	10	0		Thematic Study	20	30	0	0		Total marks	57	58	10	25			38%	38.6%	6.7%	16.7%	6.7%
J410 History A - without British Depth Study and Historic Environment																																											
Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	SPAG																																						
Period Study (Intl Relations)	17	8	0	25	10																																						
Non British Depth Study	20	20	10	0																																							
Thematic Study	20	30	0	0																																							
Total marks	57	58	10	25																																							
	38%	38.6%	6.7%	16.7%	6.7%																																						
Entry codes for 2021	<table border="1" data-bbox="619 1709 1481 2121"> <thead> <tr> <th>Entry Code</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">J410 KA</td> <td>01</td> <td>China 1950-1981: The People and the State</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08</td> <td>Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">J410 KB</td> <td>01</td> <td>China 1950-1981: The People and the State</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09</td> <td>Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Entry Code	Code	Title	J410 KA	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State	08	Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	J410 KB	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State	09	Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975																									
Entry Code	Code	Title																																									
J410 KA	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State																																									
	08	Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010																																									
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975																																									
J410 KB	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State																																									
	09	Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014																																									
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975																																									

What has changed – Specification		Detail		
		Entry Code	Code	Title
J410 KC	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State		
	10	War and British Society c.790 to c.2010		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 KD	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State		
	11	The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688-c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 KE	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State		
	12	The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 KF	01	China 1950-1981: The People and the State		
	13	Personal Rule to Restoration 1629-1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 LA	02	Germany 1925-1955: The People and the State		
	08	Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2020		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 LB	02	Germany 1925-1955: The People and the State		
	09	Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 LC	02	Germany 1925-1955: The People and the State		
	10	War and British Society c.790 to c.2010		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 LD	02	Germany 1925-1955: The People and the State		
	11	The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688-c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		
J410 LE	02	Germany 1925-1955: The People and the State		
	12	The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750		
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975		

What has changed – Specification	Detail		
	Entry Code	Code	Title
J410 LF	02		Germany 1925-1955: The People and the State
	13		Personal Rule to Restoration 1629-1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 MA	05		South Africa 1960-1994: The People and the State
	08		Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 MB	05		South Africa 1960-1994: The People and the State
	09		Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 MC	05		South Africa 1960-1994: The People and the State
	10		War and British Society c.790 to c.2010
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 MD	05		South Africa 1960-1994: The People and the State
	11		The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688-c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 ME	05		South Africa 1960-1994: The People and the State
	12		The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 MF	05		South Africa 1960-1994: The People and the State
	13		Personal Rule to Restoration 1629-1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 NA	06		The USA 1919-1948: The People and the State
	08		Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
J410 NB	06		The USA 1919-1948: The People and the State
	09		Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014
	14		International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975

What has changed – Specification	Detail		
Entry Code	Code	Title	
J410 NC	06	The USA 1919-1948: The People and the State	
	10	War and British Society c.790 to c.2010	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 ND	06	The USA 1919-1948: The People and the State	
	11	The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688-c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 NE	06	The USA 1919-1948: The People and the State	
	12	The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 NF	06	The USA 1919-1948: The People and the State	
	13	Personal Rule to Restoration 1629-1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 OA	07	The USA 1945-1974: The People and the State	
	08	Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 OB	07	The USA 1945-1974: The People and the State	
	09	Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 OC	07	The USA 1945-1974: The People and the State	
	10	War and British Society c.790 to c.2010	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 OD	07	The USA 1945-1974: The People and the State	
	11	The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688-c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	
J410 OE	07	The USA 1945-1974: The People and the State	
	12	The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750	
	14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975	

What has changed – Specification	Detail		
	Entry Code	Code	Title
	J410 OF	07	The USA 1945-1974: The People and the State
		13	Personal Rule to Restoration 1629-1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750
		14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
	J410 OG	08	Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010
		11	The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688-c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration
		14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
	J410 OH	09	Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014
		12	The English Reformation c.1520-c.1550 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750
		14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
	J410 OI	10	War and British Society c.790 to c.2010
		13	Personal Rule to Restoration 1629-1660 with Castles: Form and Function c.1000-1750
		14	International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975
Compulsory component(s) in bold			

What has changed – SAMs	Detail
Revised specimen assessment materials showing the new structure for summer 2021	Please refer to our updated SAMs for 2021 to see the new assessment structure.

Summary of updates

Date	Version	Section	Summary of change
15 December 2020	2	What has changed – revised entry codes for Summer 2021	Updated the entry code table with additional codes for Summer 2021

Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#).

Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

✉ history@ocr.org.uk

🐦 [@OCR_History](https://twitter.com/OCR_History)

☎ 01223 553 998