

Curriculum Information

Key Stage 4



“Shapes futures and diminishes differences by supporting students to learn lessons from the past”

For yourself & for others

Curriculum Intent

To deliver a high quality, ambitious, engaging and relevant History curriculum that aims to provide students with the opportunity to understand more about British and World History; to become more perceptive and analytical about the past and the world it shapes today.

Key Stage 4 History

GCSE History students at Ashby School follow the AQA GCSE Specification:

- They study one thematic study, 'Britain Health and the People c1000 to the Present Day.' This enables students to understand change and continuity across a long sweep of history.
- They study one period study, 'Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and Dictatorship,' This allows students to focus on a substantial and coherent medium time span of at least 50 years. The study also requires students to understand an unfolding narrative of substantial developments and issues.
- Students at Ashby School also complete two depth studies: 'Elizabethan England, c1568–1603' and 'Conflict and Tension 1894-1918.' The studies enable students to gain understanding of the complexities of a society or historical situation and the interplay of different aspects within it.
- The historic environment Ashby School History students focus on is a particular site in the historical context of Elizabeth I's reign. This enables students to study the relationship between a place and historical events and developments.

There is a well-planned two-year programme of study, with regular planned assessments. Feedback is effective and targets students' individual areas for development in order to help them make progress towards targets.

Recommended Revision Books:

Paper 1 (Year 10)

Conflict and Tension: First World War 1894-1918 Revision Guide, Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1) ISBN 978-1-382-00767-2

Oxford AQA GCSE History: Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship Revision Guide (9-1) by Aaron Wilkes ISBN 978-0198422891

Paper 2 (Year 11)

Britain: Health and the People c1000-Present Day Revision Guide, Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1) ISBN 978-0-19-842295-2

Oxford AQA GCSE History: Elizabethan England c1568-1603 Revision Guide (9-1) by Tim Williams (Author) ISBN 978-0198422938

Specification Link

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse>

In the autumn term of Year 10, GCSE History students are studying the AQA Examination Paper 1 Section B: Wider World Depth Study Conflict and Tension, 1894–1918. Paper 1 Section 2B is worth 25 per cent of the students' final GCSE grade. From December to April, Year 10 history students will be studying the AQA Examination Paper 1 Section A: World Period Study 'Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and Dictatorship.' Paper 1 Section 1A is worth 25 per cent of the students' final GCSE grade. Year 10 History students will have three linear GCSE assessments on Paper 1 during the year and a full Paper 1 Trial Exam in May/June 2027. They will be externally examined on Paper 1 in the summer of 2028.

Year & Half Term	Themes / Key Questions	Knowledge & Skills
10 Autumn (1)	Why did the Great War break out in 1914? Why did stalemate develop on the Western Front?	Knowledge and understanding of the causes of WW1 (AO1&2). Knowledge and understanding of key battles on the Western Front (AO1&2). Developing the ability to analyse primary sources from WW1 (AO3).
10 Autumn (2)	How was the stalemate broken? Why did Germany lose WW1?	Knowledge and understanding of the Spring Offensive and Hundred Days (AO1&2). Developing the ability to analyse primary sources from WW1 (AO3).
10 Spring (1)	Part one: Germany and the growth of democracy Kaiser Wilhelm and the difficulties of ruling Germany The impact of the First World War Weimar Germany, the Stresemann era	Knowledge and understanding of the growth of Democracy in Germany 1890-1928 (AO1&2). Developing the ability to analyse historical interpretations (AO4).
10 Spring (2)	Part two: Germany and the Depression The failure of Weimar democracy The establishment of Hitler's dictatorship	Knowledge and understanding of the problems facing Germany in the 1930s and how the NSDAP came to power (AO1&2). Developing the ability to analyse historical interpretations (AO4).
10 Summer (1)	Part three: the experiences of Germans under the Nazis Economic changes Social policy and practice Control	Knowledge and understanding of what life was like in Nazi Germany 1933-1943 (AO1&2). Knowledge and understanding of Developing the ability to analyse historical interpretations (AO4).
10 Summer (2)	What did people think made them ill and how did they try to cure illness between 1000 to the present day?	Knowledge and understanding of the first key theme across four time periods. (AO1) Analysis of significance, change and continuity and key factors (AO2) Developing the ability to analyse primary sources (AO3)

In the autumn term, Year 11 GCSE History students are studying the AQA Examination Paper 2 Section A Thematic Study: Britain, Health and the People c1000 to the present day. Paper 2 Section A is worth 25 per cent of the students' final GCSE grade. From December to April, Year 11 History students will be studying the AQA Examination Paper 2 Section B British Depth Study: 'Elizabethan England, c1568–1603.' Paper 2 Section B is worth 25 per cent of the students' final GCSE grade. Year 11 History students will have two Trial Exams, one in October 2026 and one in February 2027. They will be externally examined on Paper 1 and Paper 2 in the summer of 2027.

Year & Half Term	Themes / Key Questions	Knowledge & Skills
11 Autumn (1)	How and why did knowledge of anatomy and surgery develop between 1000 to the present day?	Knowledge and understanding of the second key theme across four time periods. (A01) Analysis of significance, change and continuity and key factors (A02) Developing the ability to analyse primary sources (A03)
	How and why did public health develop between 1000 to the present day?	Knowledge and understanding of the third key theme across four time periods. (A01) Analysis of significance, change and continuity and key factors (A02) Developing the ability to analyse primary sources (A03)
11 Autumn (2)	Section one: Elizabeth's court and Parliament Elizabeth I and her court The difficulties of a female ruler The strength of Elizabeth's authority at the end of her reign, including Essex's Rebellion in 1601 Section 2: Troubles at home and abroad (Part one) Religious matters Elizabethan settlement Elizabeth and Mary, Queen of Scots	Knowledge and understanding of the Tudor Court, the problems facing Elizabeth and how she dealt with rebellions (A01&2). Knowledge and understanding of the religious problems facing Elizabeth I and how she dealt with her cousin Mary Queen of Scots. Developing the ability to analyse historical interpretations (A04).

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In the autumn term, Year 11 GCSE History students are studying the AQA Examination Paper 2 Section A Thematic Study: Britain, Health and the People c1000 to the present day. Paper 2 Section A is worth 25 per cent of the students' final GCSE grade. From December to April, Year 11 History students will be studying the AQA Examination Paper 2 Section B British Depth Study: 'Elizabethan England, c1568–1603.' Paper 2 Section B is worth 25 per cent of the students' final GCSE grade. Year 11 History students will have two Trial Exams, one in October 2026 and one in February 2027. They will be externally examined on Paper 1 and Paper 2 in the summer of 2027.

Year & Half Term	Themes / Key Questions	Knowledge & Skills
11 Spring (1)	Section three: Life in Elizabethan times A 'Golden Age' The Elizabethan Theatre The Poor English sailors Lesson 23: Hawkins and Drake circumnavigation 1577-1580	Knowledge and understanding of Elizabethan Society (A01&2) Developing the ability to analyse historical interpretations (A04).
11 Spring (2)	Section Four: Troubles at home and abroad (Part two) Reasons for, and the events of, conflict with Spain Naval warfare The Defeat of the Spanish Armada The Historic Environment	Knowledge and understanding of Elizabethan Foreign Policy and the Historic Environment. (A01&2) Developing the ability to analyse historical interpretations (A04).
11 Summer (1)	Revision	Revision (AO 1&2) and practice GCSE examination questions (AO3 &4).