

Welcome to GCSE History



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Specification Information

Four topics:

- Paper 1 : Medicine 1250-present day, including WW1.

A study of the changes in the beliefs about the causes disease and illness over time. You will learn how events, people and institutions have encouraged or held back progress. You will also carry out a case study about the impact World War One had on medicine and surgery.

Visit the course content document here: <https://vle.westhillschool.co.uk/course/view.php?id=490>

- Paper 2a: Superpower relations and the Cold War 1945-91

A study of the main developments that unfolded between the USA and the USSR during the period known as the 'Cold War'.

Visit the course content document here: <https://vle.westhillschool.co.uk/course/view.php?id=487>

- Paper 2b: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88

A study of the social, economic, political, religious and military changes that took place under Elizabeth I.

Visit the course content document here: <https://vle.westhillschool.co.uk/course/view.php?id=488>

- Paper 3: Germany 1919-39

A study of the social, economic, political, religious and military changes that took place in Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39. You will also learn to analyse and evaluate a range of contemporary sources.

Visit the course content document here: <https://vle.westhillschool.co.uk/course/view.php?id=489>



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What you will learn

You will learn how significant events, people and decisions have shaped the world we live in. Key questions include...

How does war improve medicine?

Why was there a Catholic conspiracy to kill the Queen?

What were the consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis on Cold war relations?

How did Hitler become the Chancellor of Germany in 1933?

And understanding the past is the key to understanding the present.

Was vaccination the most important medical breakthrough 1700-1900?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgmNkYUL_Cw&feature=emb_logo



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Question types

Here are some examples of the exam questions you will prepare for.

6 'Providing access to care and treatment has been the most important development in the role of government in medicine in the years c1800–present.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16)

You may use the following in your answer:

- National Health Service (NHS), 1948
- Public Health Act, 1875

You **must** also use information of your own.

Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Hungarian Uprising in 1956.

(8)

You may use the following in your answer:

- Imre Nagy
- Soviet tanks

You **must** also use information of your own.

Explain why the Nazis were able to create a police state in the years 1933–39.

(12)

You may use the following in your answer:

- concentration camps
- law courts

You **must** also use information of your own.



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Examples of work

Trade
 • Britain wanted to trade with the new world (America) who was a trading partner of Spain (who owned it). To trade with the new world Britain would need a licence from Spain. Spain refused.
 • Britain began stealing goods (piracy) from Spanish ships travelling to the new world. EU's especially supported it.

Religion
 • The religious rivalry between the two countries was a break that it seemed to make war. It is probable that Elizabeth saw up Protestant Britain in a logical way. Spain was a Catholic country.
 • Catholic priests arriving in Britain increased fears of religious crusade.
 • Philip II saw that it was his king's work to Catholicism. He took no action against the country when she went Protestant. He was a Communist.

Why did war with Spain break out in 1585?
 • Philip II, apart from being a Catholic, was also a ruler of the most powerful country in the world. He also ruled territories and important trading corners. He was also the king of Portugal.
 • Philip's anxiety about the power of France meant that he preferred to have Elizabeth than Mary.

Not main cause because he
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Seven reasons why Hitler became so popular in the early 1930s

- Role of Josef Goebbels**
 Goebbels was a powerful orator who helped Hitler to become popular. He used propaganda to spread Hitler's ideas.
- Impact of the Great Depression**
 The Great Depression led to high unemployment and economic hardship. Hitler promised to create jobs and improve the economy.
- Use of scapegoats**
 Hitler blamed the Jews and other groups for Germany's problems. This helped to unite the German people against a common enemy.
- Use of modern technology**
 Hitler used modern technology like radio and film to spread his ideas. This helped him to reach a large audience.
- Fear of communism**
 Many Germans were afraid of communism. Hitler promised to protect them from the communists.
- Hitler's charisma**
 Hitler was a charismatic leader who inspired people. He had a strong personality and a clear vision.
- Role of SA**
 The SA (Stormtroopers) were a paramilitary organization that helped Hitler to gain power. They used violence to intimidate opponents.

The conferences 1943-45

The Hungarian Uprising (1956)
 In 1956, the Hungarian people rose up against Soviet control. They wanted more freedom and independence.

The arms race (1945-1960)
 The USA and the USSR had a competition to develop nuclear weapons. This led to a dangerous arms race.

NATO and Warsaw Pact (1949)
 NATO was formed by the USA and other Western countries. The Warsaw Pact was formed by the USSR and other Eastern countries.

Berlin crisis (1948-1949)
 The USA and the USSR had a dispute over Berlin. The USA wanted to keep Berlin open, but the USSR wanted to close it.

Soviet expansion
 The USSR expanded its control over Eastern Europe. This led to the formation of the Warsaw Pact.

Truman Doctrine & Marshall Aid (1947)
 The Truman Doctrine was a policy of opposing communism. Marshall Aid was a program to help rebuild Europe after the war.

Cominform & Comcon
 Cominform was a communist organization. Comcon was a communist conference.

Knowledge organiser: Early Weimar Germany 1918-23

Germany at the end of WW1
 Germany was defeated in WW1. The Treaty of Versailles imposed harsh terms on Germany.

Apartment Uprising
 In 1919, there was an uprising in Munich. It was suppressed by the government.

The Treaty of Versailles (1919)
 The Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. It imposed heavy penalties on Germany.

The Munich Putsch (1923)
 In 1923, Hitler led a coup in Munich. It failed, and Hitler was arrested.

Hyperinflation 1923
 Germany experienced hyperinflation in 1923. Money became worthless.

The occupation of the Ruhr (1923)
 France occupied the Ruhr region in 1923. This led to economic hardship in Germany.

Do these make the source useful or not?
 Yes/No/Partial



Skills developed

You will:

- Develop your skills of **analysis** and **evaluation** through **gathering, investigating** and **assessing** material.
- Develop your abilities to **reason** and **argue** your point of view clearly.
- Learn to base **conclusions** on **research**.
- Learn to put together a **logical argument**.
- Become much more **critical** of what you read and hear in the news
- Develop **transferable skills** such as **independent learning, literacy, open mindedness** and **developing a clear argument**. History is more than learning about names and dates!



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Careers/next steps

History is a subject that will develop your skills of **analysis** and **evaluation**. Therefore it could prepare you for:

- 'A' Level in subjects such as History, English, Sociology, Law, Government and Politics.
- Work in sectors such as education, journalism, law, civil service, cultural services such as libraries and museums.
- Many employers view History as a desirable subject because of the transferable skills you develop, particularly keeping an open mind.



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Where can you find more information?

- Follow our updates on Twitter @WH_Hist
- <https://www.westhillschool.co.uk/curriculum/subject-areas/history>
- The History department in school.



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