

GCSE History exam – Breakdown of exam papers

Paper 1 – Medicine Through Time 1250-present

- Exam length: 1 hour 15 mins
- 52 marks in total
- 30% of overall grade

Section A comprises the Depth Study on WW1

- **Question 1:** this focuses on **description (knowledge & understanding)**.
- **Question 2a & 2b:** focuses on **analysing & evaluating sources in order to make a judgement based on the context of events studied.**

Question types:

1. **Describe** 2 features of..... (4)
- 2a. **How useful are sources A & B** for an enquiry into the problems involved in..... (8)
- 2b. **How could you follow up Source B** to find out more..... (4)

Section B: comprises the entire time period: 1250-present

- **Question 3:** this focuses on **consequence**.
- **Question 4:** this focuses on **analytical narrative, in which students write a narrative account that analyses the way in which events unfolded.**
- **Question 5&6:** students **select from a choice of two questions**. Each focuses on **the importance of an event/person/development** (i.e. their consequence and significance).

Question types:

3. **Explain** one way in which..... (4)
4. **Explain** why there was rapid change (12)
(You may use the following in your answer – you are given **two** points to include)
5. Choice of two questions: 'Statement' **How far do you agree?** Explain your answer..... (16)
(You may use the following in your answer – you are given **two** points to include) + 4 for SPAG

Paper 2 The Cold War (1941-1991) The Early Elizabethan Age (1558-1588)

- Each section is worth 32 marks (64 marks total)
- Exam length: 1 hr 45 mins
- 40% of overall grade

A. COLD WAR

Students answer three compulsory questions for the period study.

- **Question 1:** this focuses on **consequence**.
- **Question 2:** this focuses on **analytical narrative, in which students write a narrative account that analyses the way in which events unfolded.**
- **Question 3:** students **select two from a choice of three parts**. Each focuses on **the importance of an**

event/person/development in terms of what difference they made in relation to situations and unfolding developments (i.e. their consequence and significance).

Question types:

3. **Explain** 2 consequences of..... (8)
4. Write a **narrative account** analysing..... (8)
(You may use the following in your answer – you are given **two** points to include)
5. **Explain** 2 of the following..... (8 + 8)

B. ELIZABETH

This option is one of the Paper 2 depth study options, and students will answer Question 5 on the examination paper.

- **Part (a)** focuses on **describing features**.
- **Part (b)** focuses on **causation**.
- **Part (c)** allows students a choice of two questions: (i) or (ii). These both require a judgement. They may focus on any of the following: **similarity, difference, change, continuity, causation or consequence**.

Question types:

1. **Describe** 2 features of..... (4)
2. **Explain** why..... (12)
(You may use the following in your answer – you are given **two** points to include)
3. '(You are given a statement)' **How far do you agree?** (16)
(You may use the following in your answer – you are given **two** points to include)

Paper 3: USA at home & abroad

- Paper is worth 52 marks
- Exam length: 1 hr 20 mins
- 30% of overall grade

Students answer six compulsory questions for the period study. You will need to demonstrate the following historical skills:

- **Inference – Make two supported inferences.**
- **Causation – Explaining why something happened**
- **Utility** - Evaluating the usefulness of sources
- **Interpretation** – Explaining what differences there are between two interpretations and why they differ.

Also making a judgement on a view given by one of the interpretations

Question types:

1. Give **2 things you can infer** from a source (4)
2. **Explain** why.... (12)
3. **How useful are x and y for an enquiry of z?** (8)
4. Explain **what is the main difference between A and B?** (4)
5. Suggest **one reason why A and B give different views about..?** (4)
6. Say **how far do you agree with interpretation A about....?** (16) + 4 for SPAG