

History A Level Year 12

A strong A Level History student is curious, analytical, and disciplined. They engage actively with a wide range of historical sources, questioning how factors such as context, provenance, purpose, and audience shape the way the past is presented. They can confidently use precise historical reasoning, such as causation, consequence, continuity, change, and significance, to construct and support clear arguments. Such a student is also independent, reading widely beyond the specification to deepen their understanding of different periods, themes, and historical interpretations. They critically evaluate source material, recognising bias, limitations, and differing perspectives. They are organised in their thinking and writing, producing well-structured, coherent essays that address the question directly, develop sustained arguments, and support points with accurate and relevant evidence. They show intellectual confidence by weighing interpretations, making judgements, and justifying these with carefully selected knowledge. Most importantly, they are willing to question assumptions, explore complexity, and develop their own historically grounded interpretations, always supporting their conclusions with precise evidence and reasoned analysis.

Summary of course content

The History A Level syllabus is split into four areas:

Paper/component	Assessment Objectives			Total for all Assessment Objectives
	AO1	AO2	AO3	
Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations	20%	–	10%	30%
Paper 2: Depth study	10%	10%	–	20%
Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth	20%	10%	–	30%
Coursework	5%	–	15%	20%
Total for this qualification	55%	20%	25%	100%

You can find the Edexcel specification here: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/history-2015.html>

Weekly:	Completion of set work as outlined in the grid below
Fortnightly:	- Review of recent lessons, learning key terminology, producing revision resources, completion of additional reading (books from library and online sources) and listening (podcasts) from historians. Independent Study Folder (ISF): this will be checked fortnightly by your tutor and logged.
Half termly:	Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs): review your PLCs for each topic, identifying areas of strengths and weakness. Plan upcoming revision accordingly.

In addition to those provided for specific tasks by your teacher, resources include:

TEAMS: lesson resources, Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs), and revision materials.

Independent Learning Schedule – two hours directed by each of your teachers (subject to change).

Week beginning	Teacher 1 (China and Tudors)	Teacher 2 (Russia)
7 th September	Enrolment week	
14	China reading 1 Jaivin, 'Introduction', <i>The Shortest History of China</i> .	Directed consolidation task <i>Researching one area of the course as directed in lesson to be presented in the lesson</i>
21	Directed consolidation task Detailed A3 timeline of modern China, 1860-1997.	Russia reading 1 – take notes and consolidate notes Archer article 'Why was there a revolution in 1917?'
28	China reading 2 Chang and Halliday, 'Rivalry with Stalin', <i>Mao: The Unknown Story</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task <i>Directed to watch a video and take notes – and consolidate notes</i>
5 th October	Directed consolidation and revision task - Notes on Mao's life before 1949 - Revision resource on the impacts of the Chinese Civil War	Directed consolidation and revision task <i>Complete consolidation of notes for the essay to be set in the next week</i>
12	China reading 3 Dikotter, 'War Again', <i>The Tragedy of Liberation</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task <i>Essay – All power to the Soviets' To what extent was Lenin true to this slogan 1917-24?</i>
19	Directed revision tasks - Revision resource on the Reunification Campaigns (Guangdong, Tibet, Xinjiang) - Revision resource on the Korean War	Russia reading 3 <i>The purges – Textbook – set on Teams</i>
26	Half term	
2 nd November	China reading 4 Dikotter, 'Liberation', <i>The Tragedy of Liberation</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task <i>Consolidate Cult of Personality/Purges/ Change over time/ Lenin/Stalin/Khrushchev</i>
9	Directed consolidation and revision task - Notes on the consolidation of communist power in China, 1949-54 - Revision resource on the new power structure created by Mao in 1949	Russia reading and consolidation <i>Essay - How accurate is it to say that Khrushchev's attempts to reform Soviet government were largely successful?</i>
16	China reading 5 Chang and Halliday, 'Totalitarian State, Extravagant Lifestyle', <i>Mao: The Unknown Story</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task <i>Economic changes – revision of key economic terminology</i>
23	Directed revision tasks - Revision resource on the Great Terror (1950-51) - Revision resource on the Three and Five Antis campaigns	Russia reading 5 <i>Reading on collectivisation/5 year plans</i>
30	China reading 6 Dikotter, 'Poisonous Weeds', <i>The Tragedy of Liberation</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task <i>Consolidate notes on Economic timeline Lenin – Khrushchev</i>
7 th December	Directed consolidation and revision task Review the Mao's China PLC and check that your book / folder is up to date	Russia reading 6 <i>Focus on revision for the test essay</i>

	Revision resource on the Hundred Flowers Campaign	
14	Catch up on missed lessons (China)	Catch up on missed lessons (Russia)
21	Christmas holidays	
28	Christmas holidays	
4 th January	Directed consolidation task Detailed A3 timeline of the establishment of communist rule in China, 1949-57.	Russia reading 7
11	China reading 8 Dikotter, 'The Road to Serfdom', <i>The Tragedy of Liberation</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task
18	Directed revision tasks - Revision resource on land reform - Revision resource on the First Five-Year Plan	Russia reading 8
25	China reading 9 Chang and Halliday, 'The Great Leap: half of China may have to die', <i>Mao: The Unknown Story</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task
1 st February	Work experience	
8	Directed consolidation and revision task - Notes on the Second Five-Year Plan / Great Leap Forward - Revision resource on the Second Five-Year Plan / Great Leap Forward	Russia reading 9
15	Half term	
22	China reading 10 Dikotter, 'The End of Truth', <i>Mao's Great Famine</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task
1 st March	Directed consolidation and revision task - Detailed analysis of China Section A sources (2020 paper) - Revision resource on the Lushan Conference (1959) and the Conference of the 7000 Cadres (1962)	Russia reading 10
8	China reading 11 Branigan, 'Nine', <i>Red Memory</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task
15	Directed consolidation task Detailed A3 timeline of Industry and Agriculture, 1949-62	Russia reading 11
22	China reading 12 Jaivin, 'The Mao Years', <i>The Shortest History of China</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task
29	Easter holiday	
5 th April	Easter holidays	
12	Directed consolidation task Detailed A3 timeline of the Cultural Revolution and its aftermath, 1965-76.	Russia reading 12
19	Tudors reading 1 Day et al, 'Introduction', <i>A History of Treason</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task
26	Directed consolidation tasks Detailed A3 timeline of Social and Cultural Change in China, 1949-76	Russia reading 13
3 rd May	Tudors reading 2	Directed consolidation and revision task

	Day et al., 'Richard III and Henry VII', <i>A History of Treason</i>	
10	Directed consolidation and revision task - Richard III timeline task - Revision timetable for the History trial exam	Russia reading 14
17	Tudors reading 3 Fellows, 'Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck', <i>Securing the Dynasty: The Reign of Henry VII</i>	Directed consolidation and revision task
24	Directed revision tasks - Detailed analysis of China Section A sources (2018 paper) - Detailed essay plans for both China Section B questions (2019 paper)	Russia reading 15
31	Half term	
7 th June	Independent trial exam revision	Independent trial exam revision
14	Independent trial exam revision	Independent trial exam revision
21	Trial examinations	Trial examinations
28	Catch-up missed lessons (Tudors)	Catch-up missed lessons (Russia)
5 th July	Tudors reading 4 Ackroyd, 'Hallelujah', <i>Tudors</i>	Coursework reading 1
12	Directed consolidation task Detailed A3 timeline of Henry VII's reign, 1485-1509	Coursework reading 2
19	Catch-up missed lessons (Tudors)	Catch-up missed lessons (coursework prep)