



From the last term of Year 9, students begin studying GCSE History content to allow sufficient time for the secure embedding of declarative knowledge, disciplinary concepts and examination skills across the course. Across Years 10 and 11, students study a broad range of units that build on prior learning from KS3, deepen understanding of themes such as conflict, power, society, health, ideology and change, and provide strong foundations for further study at KS5.

GCSE History Curriculum

Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950 – 1975



While **declarative** knowledge remains consistent across the curriculum, **procedural** and **conditional** knowledge may be developed through different approaches, enabling teachers to exercise professional judgement in response to class needs and learning context.

Rationale	Linking/Looking	Knowledge acquisition: to know... ...that/what (declarative) ...how to (procedural) ...when to (conditional)	Key Tier 2 & 3 vocabulary	Homework expectations	Skills and enrichment
<p>This unit allows students to explore the development of the Cold War beyond Europe and understand how ideological conflict shaped international relations in the second half of the twentieth century. Through the study of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, students examine how tensions between communism and capitalism influenced global politics, diplomacy and warfare.</p>	<p>LINKING </p> <p>Students build on prior learning from Year 9 on the origins of the Cold War, communism and capitalism, as well as earlier studies of conflict, empire and protest across KS3.</p> <p>LOOKING </p> <p>This unit develops understanding of ideology, conflict and international relations that supports later GCSE study in America, Opportunity and Inequality, 1920–1973 and provides foundations for A Level topics including Soviet Russia, the German Democratic Republic and Poverty, Public Health and the State in Britain c.1780–1939.</p>	<p>To know... ...what happened to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and consider whether it was justified.</p>	atomic bomb justified radiation	<p>Students will primarily complete homework essay question booklets. As well as consolidating declarative knowledge, they provide opportunities for students to develop procedural and conditional knowledge through regular practice of GCSE-style questions and the application of appropriate exam techniques.</p>	<p>Subject specific skills: Students analyse causation, consequence, sources and interpretations while developing supported historical judgements about Cold War conflicts</p> <p>Numeracy: Students interpret statistics, casualty figures, timelines and military data to understand the scale and impact of conflict.</p> <p>Literacy: Students develop and apply key historical vocabulary linked to ideology, conflict and international relations</p> <p>Reading: Students critically analyse a range of historical sources and contemporary accounts.</p> <p>Writing: Students develop</p>
		<p>To know... ...what the differences are between communism and capitalism and how this influenced the Cold War.</p>	capitalism communism ideology		
		<p>To know... ...what the Truman Doctrine was and how it influenced UN policy</p>	Truman Doctrine Iron Curtain Proxy war		
		<p>To know... ...what the causes of the Korean war were and how the conflict became an international crisis.</p>	Kim III Sung Syngman Rhee veto		
		<p>To know... ...what occurred during the events and development of the Korean war.</p>	Pusan Perimeter Incheon Landings Yalu River		
		<p>To know... ...that General Douglas MacArthur posed a risk to American foreign policy, and why he was ultimately sacked.</p>	Douglas MacArthur nuclear war President Truman		
		<p>To know... ...that the Korean war ended in a stalemate, and to understand the reasons for this.</p>	stalemate Ridgeway armistice		
		<p>To know... ...that there were a number of effects of the Korean war.</p>	Casualties ICMBs tension		

					analytical and judgement-based writing using precise historical evidence.
		To know... ...what problems were caused by French and Japanese rule in Vietnam	Indochina Vietminh Ho Chi Minh		<p>Oracy: Students develop discussion and debate skills through evaluating conflict, intervention and protest.</p> <p>Cultural capital: Students develop understanding of global conflict, Cold War tensions and the experiences of people in Asia during the twentieth century.</p> <p>Links to national curriculum: This unit develops chronological understanding, use of evidence and knowledge of significant international events in modern history.</p>
		To know... ...what occurred at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu and how this led to the 1954 Geneva Agreement	Dien Bien Phu guerrilla Parralel		
		To know... ...that there were a number of causes of the civil war in South Vietnam.	Buddhists President Diem NLF		
		To know... ...what the aims, methods and actions of the Vietcong were.	Vietcong Guerrilla Ho Chi Minh Trail		
		To know... ...that the USA became increasingly involved in Vietnam.	Domino Theory Involvement Strategic Hamlet Programme		
		To know... ...what occurred during the Gulf of Tonkin incident and how this escalated tensions.	Gulf of Tonkin USS Maddox Operation Rolling Thunder		
		To know... ...what tactics were used by the Vietcong to fight against the American forces.	Punji trap Hanging on the belts Chi Chi tunnels		
		To know... ...what tactics and methods were used by the Americans to fight against the Vietcong	Search and destroy Napalm Agent Orange		
		To know... ...what occurred during the Tet Offensive and why it was a major turning point in the Vietnam War.	Tet ARVN Saigon		
		To know... ...what occurred during the My Lai Massacre and the impact it had in Vietnam and America.	Massacre My Lai Lt. Calley		

		To know... ... what President Nixon's strategies for peace were and to study how America tried to reduce involvement in Vietnam.	Vietnamisation 'Peace with honour'		
		To know... ...that Nixon improved relations with China and the USSR and how the conflict in Vietnam widened beyond Vietnam.	Cambodia Laos Khmer Rouge		
		To know... ...what role the media played in reporting on the Vietnam war, and how the nature of this changed after 1968	Walter Cronkite Journalists Trust		
		To know... ...that Americans demanded action for peace through the Anti-War Movement	Anti-war movement Great Society Draft dodgers		
		To know... ...what happened at Kent State University, and the impact this had on America's involvement in Vietnam	Kent State National Guard		
		To know... ...that the Watergate Affair had a damaging effect on trust in America's leadership	Watergate scandal Impeachment		
		To know... ...that the Paris Peace Talks between 1969 and 1973 led to the Paris Peace Accord and the end of American involvement in Vietnam	Henry Kissinger ceasefire negotiation		
		To know... ...that there were a number of effects of the war in Vietnam.	Financial Environmental casualties		

America, Opportunity and Inequality: 1920 - 1973

Rationale	Linking/Looking	Knowledge acquisition: to know... ...that/what (declarative) ...how to (procedural) ...when to (conditional)	Key Tier 2 & 3 vocabulary	Homework expectations	Skills and enrichment
<p>This unit enables students to explore a period of significant social, political, economic and cultural change in twentieth-century America, examining both opportunity and inequality within the so-called 'American Dream.' Students consider how prosperity, political leadership, protest and social division shaped American society, while developing understanding of key themes including power, rights, discrimination,</p>	<p>LINKING </p> <p>Students build on prior learning about industrial change, protest, inequality, political reform and conflict from across KS3, particularly studies of Empire, Suffragettes, World War One, World War Two and early twentieth-century political change.</p> <p>LOOKING </p> <p>This unit develops understanding of protest, inequality, ideology and social change, supporting wider GCSE study and providing useful foundations for A Level History topics including Soviet Russia, the GDR and Poverty and Public Health.</p>	<p>To know... ...that America is a capitalist democracy and understand how it is governed.</p>	<p>Constitution Federal Republican Democrat</p>	<p>Students will primarily complete homework essay question booklets. As well as consolidating declarative knowledge, they provide opportunities for students to develop procedural and conditional knowledge through regular practice of GCSE-style questions and the application of appropriate exam techniques.</p>	<p>Subject specific skills: Students analyse causation, consequence, change and continuity, sources and interpretations while developing supported historical judgements.</p> <p>Numeracy: Students interpret statistics, election data, economic figures and demographic trends to understand change and inequality.</p> <p>Literacy: Students develop and apply key historical vocabulary linked to politics, society, protest, race and economic change.</p> <p>Reading: Students critically analyse historical sources, interpretations, speeches and contemporary accounts.</p>
		<p>To know... ...what the immigrant experience was like for those who migrated to America</p>	<p>Discrimination Quota system WASP</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what happened to Sacco and Vanzetti and why their story is the embodiment of the Red Scare</p>	<p>Red Scare Anarchist Sacco and Vanzetti</p>		
		<p>To know... ...that there was an economic boom in America in the 1920s.</p>	<p>Mass production Hire purchase Tariff</p>		
		<p>To know... ...that Henry Ford played a large role in the economic boom of the 1920s.</p>	<p>Model T Assembly line</p>		
		<p>To know... ...that not everyone benefitted from the economic boom of the 1920s.</p>	<p>Sharecropper Inequality Native American</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what a 'flapper' was and whether they were representative of women across America in the 1920s.</p>	<p>Flapper Chaperone Anti-Flirt League</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what developments in 1920s entertainment took place.</p>	<p>Roaring Twenties Jazz Star system</p>		

<p>change and continuity. The topic also broadens students' understanding of international influence and modern society, while strengthening core historical skills including analysis, explanation and judgement.</p>	<p>To know... ...what impact prohibition had, why it failed and how it gave rise to organised crime in America.</p>	<p>Speakeasy Bootlegger moonshine</p>	<p>Writing: Students develop analytical and judgement-based writing using precise historical evidence.</p> <p>Oracy: Students develop discussion and debate skills through evaluating leadership, protest, rights and social change.</p> <p>Cultural capital: Students develop understanding of civil rights, democracy, protest movements, inequality and the cultural development of modern America.</p> <p>Links to national curriculum: This unit develops chronological understanding, use of evidence and knowledge of significant twentieth-century international developments</p>
	<p>To know... ...what African Americans experienced in 1920s America.</p>	<p>Segregate Lynch Segregate</p>	
	<p>To know... ...what occurred during the Wall Street Crash and its immediate effects.</p>	<p>Overproduction Wall Street Black Thursday</p>	
	<p>To know... ...what happened during the Great Depression and how it affected different peoples' lives.</p>	<p>Great Depression Bankrupt Shareholder</p>	
	<p>To know... ...what President Hoover did to respond to the Great Depression.</p>	<p>Hooverville Breadline Dust Bowl</p>	
	<p>To know... ...that Frankin Roosevelt won the 1932 Presidential Election and understand the reasons for his victory.</p>	<p>Democrat The New Deal Election</p>	
	<p>To know... ...what Roosevelt did in his first hundred days in office and his introduction of the New Deal.</p>	<p>Emergency Banking Act Fireside Chats Alphabet Agencies</p>	
	<p>To know... ...that Roosevelt's New Deal faced opposition.</p>	<p>Supreme Court Radical Dictator</p>	
	<p>To know... ...that there are differing opinions on the effectiveness of the New Deal.</p>	<p>recession unemployment</p>	
	<p>To know... ...what developments took place in 1930s popular culture.</p>	<p>Popular culture Comic books Musicals</p>	

		To know... ...that the United States became involved in World War II, and this impact this had on the American economy.	Isolationism Pearl Harbor Lend Lease		
		To know... ...what occurred during the post-war boom of the 1950s and the impact this had on the 'Rock and Roll' generation.	Consumerism Mall Rock and roll		
		To know... ...what impact McCarthyism had on post-war American society.	McCarthyism Communism Blacklist		
		To know... ...what the Civil Rights Movement and the impact it had on education and segregation in the 1950s.	Civil Rights Movement Boycott Direct action		
		To know... ...what Civil Rights peaceful protests took place in the 1960s, and the impact they had on segregation in the United States.	Freedom rides Sit-ins		
		To know... ...that the Black Power Movement viewed the peaceful protests of MLK as insufficient	Separatism Militant Black Panthers		
		To know... ...what JFKs New Frontier and LBJs Great Society offered to the American people.	New Fronter Great Society Medicare		
		To know... ...what the feminist movement did to achieve greater equality for women in America in the post-war period.	Feminine Mystique NOW Abortion		



Health and the People in Britain, c.1000 to Present Day

Rationale	Linking/Looking	Knowledge acquisition: to know... ...that/what (declarative) ...how to (procedural) ...when to (conditional)	Key Tier 2 & 3 vocabulary	Homework expectations	Skills and enrichment
<p>This unit enables students to explore the long-term development of health, medicine and public health in Britain, examining how ideas, individuals, institutions and technology have shaped change over time. Students develop an understanding of continuity and change across a broad historical period, while considering factors such as science, religion, government and war in driving progress and limiting development. The topic</p>	<p>LINKING</p> <p>Students build on prior learning about medieval society, religion, industrial change, warfare and social reform from across KS3, particularly studies of Medieval England, the Industrial Revolution, World War One and World War Two.</p> <p>LOOKING</p> <p>This unit develops understanding of change over time, government intervention, social reform and the impact of scientific development, supporting wider GCSE study and providing strong foundations for A Level History, particularly Poverty</p>	<p>To know... ...what a medieval doctor knew, including natural, supernatural, Hippocratic and Galenic ideas.</p>	<p>Humours Bloodletting Barber-surgeon</p>	<p>Students will primarily complete homework essay question booklets. As well as consolidating declarative knowledge, they provide opportunities for students to develop procedural and conditional knowledge through regular practice of GCSE-style questions and the application of appropriate exam techniques.</p>	<p>Subject specific skills: Students analyse change and continuity, causation, significance, sources and interpretations while making supported historical judgements across time.</p> <p>Numeracy: Students interpret mortality rates, population data, timelines and statistical evidence to understand patterns of health and medical change.</p> <p>Literacy: Students develop and apply key historical vocabulary linked to medicine, public health, disease, science and government.</p> <p>Reading: Students critically analyse historical sources, medical accounts, public health evidence and interpretations from</p>
		<p>To know... ...what impact Christianity and Islam had on medieval medicine.</p>	<p>Pilgrimage Caliph dissection</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what types of medieval surgery were practised and what progress was made in the medieval period.</p>	<p>Trepanning Cauterisation anatomy</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what public health conditions were like in medieval towns and monasteries.</p>	<p>Public health Cesspit Gong farmer lavatorium</p>		
		<p>To know... ...that poor public health and the Black Death had massive consequences for people in Britain.</p>	<p>Bubonic Pneumonic Quarantine</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what the Renaissance was and understand how it could contribute to further medical understanding.</p>	<p>Renaissance Printing press inventions</p>		
		<p>To know... ...that Andreas Vesalius challenged the work of Galen while furthering anatomical knowledge.</p>	<p>Vesalius Anatomy Fabric of the Human Body</p>		
<p>To know... ...that Ambroise Paré contributed to our understanding of surgery.</p>	<p>Turpentine Ligature Prosthetics</p>				

strengthens students' chronological understanding and ability to identify patterns, significance and turning points across a thematic study.	and Public Health and broader thematic historical analysis.	To know... ...that William Harvey contributed to the understanding of the circulatory system.	De Motu Cordis Quack capillaries	different periods. Writing: Students develop analytical and judgement-based writing using precise historical evidence across a broad time period. Oracy: Students develop analytical and judgement-based writing using precise historical evidence across a broad time period. Cultural capital: Students develop understanding of the history of medicine, public health, scientific progress and how historical developments continue to shape modern healthcare. Links to national curriculum: This unit develops chronological understanding, use of evidence and knowledge of significant developments in British social, scientific and medical history..
		To know... ...what treatment was available to people in the 17th and 18th century.	Purgative New World enema	
		To know... ...that there were changes and improvements to the hospitals available in the 18th century.	Infirmary patron	
		To know... ...what doctors did to deal with the Great Plague.	Bill of Mortality miasma	
		To know... ...that John Hunter contributed to surgical understanding through his teaching, books and methods.	Aneurysm Specimens surgeon	
		To know... ...what role Edward Jenner played in the development of the world's first vaccine.	Virus Inoculation Vaccination	
		To know... ...what anaesthetic methods were used to prevent pain during surgery.	Nitrous oxide Ether Chloroform	
		To know... ...that Louis Pasteur's Germ Theory was fundamental to understanding that germs cause diseases.	Spontaneous generation Contagion Germ Theory	
		To know... ...that Josph Lister was influential in the development of aseptic surgery.	Antiseptic Mortality Carbolic acid	
		To know... ...that Robert Koch applied Pasteur's theories to understand human diseases.	Vaccine Dyes Agar	

		To know... ...what impact the growth of towns and cities had on public health in Britain in the 1800s.	Slums Open sewers Back to back		
		To know... ...that John Snow was influential in his discovery that cholera was a water-borne disease.	Laissez faire Cholera Broad Street		
		To know... ...what the Great Stink was and how Bazalgette's sewers changed public health in London forever.	Thames Sewers Parliament		
		To know... ...that Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin and how his work was built upon by Florey and Chain to develop the world's first antibiotic.	Antibiotic Pharmaceutical Bacteriologist		
		To know... ...what developments were made across surgery and treatment across the 20 th century.	DNA Screening transplant		
		To know... ...what alternative medicines are and why people choose these methods of treatment.	Homeopathy Acupuncture Hypnotherapy		
		To know... ...that World War One and World War Two had a large impact on the development of medical understanding, surgery and treatment.	Shell shock Plastic surgery Gangrene.		
		To know... ...what efforts were made by the government to improve the nation's health after 1900.	Booth Rowntree Liberal Welfare Reforms		
		To know... ...how public health in Britain has developed into the 21 st century.	Beveridge NHS Welfare state.		

Elizabethan England, 1568-1603

Rationale	Linking/Looking	Knowledge acquisition: to know... ...that/what (declarative) ...how to (procedural) ...when to (conditional)	Key Tier 3 vocabulary	Homework expectations	Skills and enrichment
<p>This unit enables students to explore a pivotal period in British history, examining political power, religion, society, exploration and conflict during the reign of Elizabeth I. Students develop understanding of how government, belief, social change and international tensions shaped Elizabethan England, while strengthening their ability to analyse causation, significance and historical interpretations within a specific historical context.</p>	<p>LINKING </p> <p>Students build on prior learning about monarchy, religion, society, conflict and empire from across KS3, particularly studies of the Normans, Medieval Religion, the Tudors, Empire and World War One.</p> <p>LOOKING </p> <p>This unit develops understanding of political authority, religious conflict, social change and international relations, supporting wider GCSE study and providing useful foundations for A Level History through the study of power, governance, ideology and historical change.</p>	<p>To know... ...what Elizabeth I's background was and why her accession to the throne was significant for England.</p>	<p>Inherit Treason Royal court</p>	<p>Students will primarily complete homework essay question booklets. As well as consolidating declarative knowledge, they provide opportunities for students to develop procedural and conditional knowledge through regular practice of GCSE-style questions and the application of appropriate exam techniques.</p>	<p>Subject specific skills: Students analyse causation, consequence, significance, sources and interpretations while making supported historical judgements within a defined historical period.</p> <p>Numeracy: Students interpret timelines, population change, exploration routes and statistical information to understand developments in Elizabethan society.</p> <p>Literacy: Students develop and apply key historical vocabulary linked to monarchy, religion, exploration, poverty and conflict.</p> <p>Reading: Students critically analyse historical sources, interpretations and contemporary accounts from the</p>
		<p>To know... ...what the political structure of Elizabethan England was and where power lay within government.</p>	<p>Privy council Patronage Nobility</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what challenges Elizabeth faced when she became queen, including religious, political and financial problems.</p>	<p>Exile Poverty Pope</p>		
		<p>To know... ...why the issue of succession created uncertainty and threatened Elizabeth's position.</p>	<p>Robert Dudley Philip II of Spain Duke of Anjou</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what caused the Essex Rebellion, why it failed and what it revealed about Elizabeth's authority</p>	<p>Monopoly Ireland favourite</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what religious changes took place under Elizabeth and how the Religious Settlement aimed to create stability.</p>	<p>Protestant Catholic</p>		
		<p>To know... ...what threats Catholic plots posed to Elizabeth at home and abroad.</p>	<p>Northern Rebellion Ridolfi Plot Throckmorton Plot Babington Plot</p>		

	To know... ...what threats Catholic plots posed to Elizabeth at home and abroad.	Seminary Missionary Jesuits	Elizabethan period. Writing: Students develop analytical and judgement-based writing using precise historical evidence and contextual knowledge. Oracy: Students develop discussion and debate skills through evaluating leadership, religious conflict, exploration and social change. Cultural capital: Students develop understanding of Britain's political, religious and cultural development, including theatre, exploration and changing social attitudes. Links to national curriculum: This unit develops chronological understanding, use of evidence and knowledge of significant events, individuals and developments in early modern British history.
	To know... ...what Puritans believed and how Elizabeth's government responded to demands for further reform.	Propheying Separatists Grindal	
	To know... ...why Mary, Queen of Scots was considered a threat and why Elizabeth eventually approved her execution.	Claimant Imprisonment martyr	
	To know... ...why conflict developed between England and Spain during Elizabeth's reign.	Pope Netherlands Privateering	
	To know... ...what role English naval warfare played in defeating the Spanish Armada.	Fireship Line of battle Armada	
	To know... ...what wealth and fashion reveal about status and society in Elizabethan England.	Gentry Great Chain of Being ruff	
	To know... ...what the growth of theatre reveals about Elizabethan culture and society.	Patron Shakespeare The Globe	
	To know... ...why some historians describe Elizabethan England as a 'Golden Age.'	Gloriana Propaganda Golden Age	
	To know... ...what caused poverty, how people reacted to it and how the government attempted to respond.	Pauper Poverty Deserving/undeserving poor	

		To know... ...why voyages of discovery took place and what they meant for England's development.	Circumnavigate Privateer Astrolabe		
		To know... ...how trade and overseas ventures helped make England wealthier and more powerful.	Slavery Muscovy Company East India Company		
		To know... ...what your Historic Environment is and to plan for the relevant 16 mark question in your Elizabeth exam.	Historic environment Elizabethan context		