

GCSE History

2-Year Route

AQA 8145

CONTENT WARNING

This course is a GCSE and is therefore aimed at students of 14+. Students who are younger than this are more than welcome, but there will be reference to adult themes from time to time. This course contains references to sexual assault and rape, violence and warfare. I do not cover these things gratuitously but they are a core part of the course at times and feature in the textbook.

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Key Information

Course Price	£550 divided over 22 months at £25
Course Length	22 Months over 74 Lessons
Lesson Length	1 hour
Lesson Times	Wednesdays 1pm
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE
Course Code	8145
Exams	2 Papers of 2 hours



Component 1: American West (Year 1)

This is a period study; we look at a specific place and time to get an in-depth understanding of that history. We focus on the use of differing historical interpretations to get as rounded a look as possible.

America 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation

This unit focuses on the push west of the USA under the power of technology, the hunger for gold and manifest destiny. This unit encompasses the civil war, slavery and the lifestyle, culture (and ultimate genocide) of the Indigenous American populations.



Component 2: The Normans (Year 1)

Our fourth and final unit of study will be a British depth study. This is where we take a smaller slice of British history and look at it in detail. It also includes a special study of an historic British site.

Norman England 1066 - c.1100

This unit starts with the Norman conquest and looks at how this dynasty formed the Britain we know today. War, murder, betrayal and... accountancy, all the major themes will be studied!

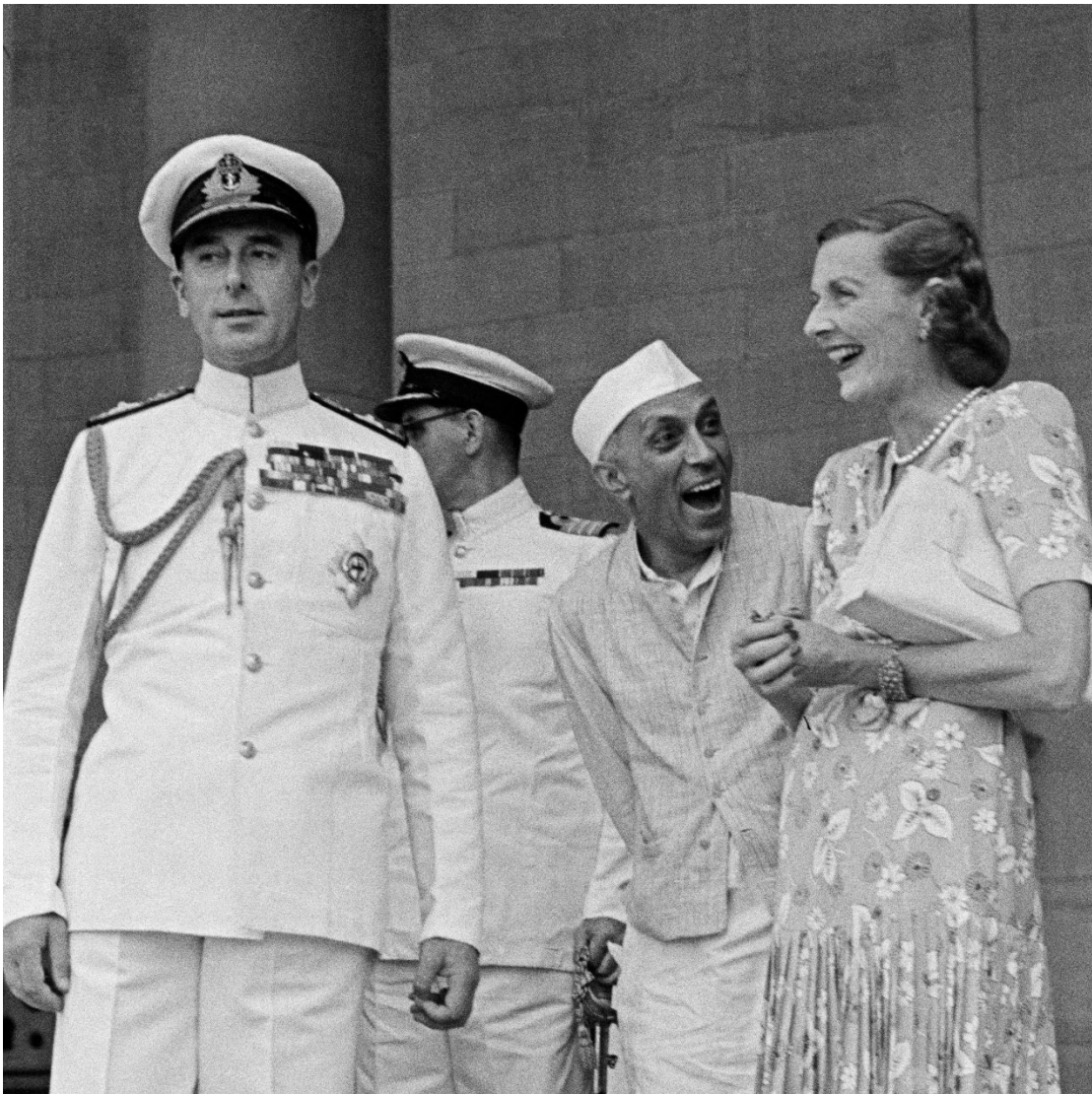


Component 3: Britain and Migration (Year 2)

Our third unit of study will be a thematic study. This means that we look at a wide span of history (over a thousand years!) and examine how migration has played a part in the expansion of Britain from a bunch of kingdoms to a mighty empire and its effects on British society and culture today.

Migration, Empires and the People

This unit follows the history of the movement of people both to and from Britain from Anglo-Saxon times to Brexit. Medieval wars with France, waves of immigration to the UK and the rise and fall of an Empire upon which the sun never set; this topic is massive and immersive.



Component 4: War & Tension in Asia (Year 2)

Our second unit of study will be a world depth study. This means that we look at a smaller piece of history but in more detail. We will work with sources, analysing them and questioning their reliability in relation to the facts as we know them.

Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950 – 1975

This unit concentrates on the struggle between Communism and democracy in the Korean and Vietnam wars. How were these conflicts similar and how were they different?



Examination Information

2 exam papers of 2 hours each, both taken in the Summer of 2026.

There will be a range of partial and full mock exams throughout the course. We take mock exams in lessons which will be recorded in case we need evidence of work due to any exam complications in 2026.

I mark all exams and provide feedback. We will study all the required exam skills in class and most homework will be based on exam questions.

Exams are readily available across the county at independent exam centres such as A3, Faregos and Tutors & Exams. I am partnered with Tutors & Exams but this does not mean you must take the exam with them.

The deadline for exam entries is usually around the end of January. I suggest that you sign up before then to avoid any delays, especially if you require access arrangements due to any special needs (extra time, use of a laptop etc.)

I **cannot** sign up to exam for you, but I can offer help and advice. It is also not me who can decide if a student requires extra time etc; that's something you must arrange with the exam centre you choose to sit the exam with.

This specific GCSE is mostly focused on essay writing. The student must be able to write several pages of prose A4 continuity to achieve good grades. If a student is taking exams for the first time, it may be a good idea to do a different course first that contains less essay questions and more short-form questions.

You can find examples of exam papers on the AQA website.

Assessment and Homework

In order to track student's progress, I ask them to complete regular homework and mock exam assessments.

Homework will be set every other lesson and will usually be based on exam questions so that they can be marked and graded.

All students must have access to a printer to print off homework and exam papers.

All students must have a way of sending me completed homework. You can either photograph this and send it or scan it in. (If you have completed work on the computer than this is a simple email).

It is much appreciated if work can be sent in .pdf form as this drastically cuts down the time it takes to mark.

All homework will be returned, marked, within two days of being sent unless we are taking a holiday. Most homework is sent back the next day.

Drop-In

If a student requires help with homework, or anything else, they can email me at any time or join my drop-in session every **Saturday from 11-12pm**.

This session is open to all students and their parents for free and you can ask me anything!

Reports

I send out written reports each July to give parents and students a good idea of how they are progressing. This report will show how regularly homework is completed, attendance and average grades so far.

How Lessons Work

All lessons are online and use the Zoom platform. Students will have a link that they can use for the entire year.

All lessons are recorded so should you miss a lesson, you can catch up. These are all stored on a central Google Drive. These are also great for revision!

Students are not required to use cameras or mics, although they are more than welcome to do so. The exception to this is during mock exams when all students are expected to have a camera pointing at their work, not faces and must have their mics muted.

Students will be able to use the Zoom chat function during lessons if they are uncomfortable with speaking.

Equipment you will need:

- Camera
- Mic
- Stable internet connection
- Notepads and pens for notetaking
- Working printer for printing off assessments etc.

Holidays and Taking Breaks

This course follows the **Nottinghamshire** school term times (attached to the end of this document). This means that we will have a long break for Summer, half terms and Christmas and Easter holidays.

The price of the course has been split over the length of the course, so even when in holiday times, the monthly cost is the same even though there may be less lessons in that particular month.

As all lessons are recorded, it's no problem at all to take additional weeks off. Please be prepared to catch up with missed lessons though by watching recordings and doing any homework set.

If you cannot make a mock exam for any reason, please send me an email. We can usually work out an alternative time to sit these exams.

Textbooks

These textbooks are required for the course.

AQA GCSE History: Understanding the Modern World
(ISBN: 9781471862946)

AQA GCSE History: Migration, Empires and the People
(ISBN: 9781471886249) **(This textbook is NOT required until Year 2)**

AQA GCSE History: Norman England 1066-c1100
(ISBN: 978147 186342 4)



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School Holidays
 Public Holidays
 Administration Day

Autumn Term

1 September - 17 October **7 weeks**
 3 November - 19 December **7 weeks**

Spring Term

5 January - 13 February **6 weeks**
 23 February - 27 March **5 weeks**

Summer Term

13 April - 22 May **5 weeks 4 days**
 1 June - 27 July **8 weeks 1 day**

Nottinghamshire School Holidays 2026-27

August 2026 to July 2027



2026/2027

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School Holidays
 Public Holidays
 Administration Day

Autumn Term
 1 September - 16 October **6 weeks 4 days**
 2 November - 18 December **7 weeks**

Spring Term
 4 January - 12 February **6 weeks**
 22 February - 25 March **4 weeks 4 days**

Summer Term
 12 April - 28 May **6 weeks 4 days**
 7 June - 28 July **7 weeks 3 days**