

GCSE History 2025 FAQ

Exam

What History specification is my son following?

At Bruern Abbey, we adhere to the AQA specification for GCSE History.

What topics is son studying?

AQA GCSE History consists of four distinct topics. Our GCSE History students have chosen and will study the following topics:

- [Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship](#) (4th form topic)
- [Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day](#) (4th form topic)
- [Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975](#) (5th form topic)
- [Norman England, c1066–c1100](#) (5th form topic)

Which exam papers will my son sit?

AQA GCSE History consists of two separate exam papers, each comprising of two topics mentioned above:

- Paper 1: Understanding the modern world (consisting of Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship and Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975).
- Paper 2: Shaping the nation (consisting of Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day and Norman England, c1066–c1100).

How long is each exam paper?

Each exam paper lasts 2 hours, or 2 hours and 30 minutes with additional time allowances. Your son should aim to spend approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes per topic with extra time.

How much is each exam paper worth?

Each exam paper accounts for 50% of the final GCSE grade and is worth a total of 84 marks.

When are my son's History exams?

Your son will sit his Paper 1 exam during May 2026 and his Paper 2 exam during June 2026.

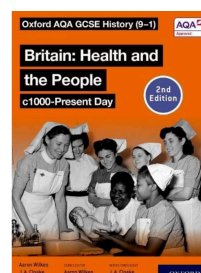
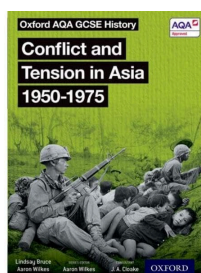
If you have any further questions about the detailed structure of the exam, please feel free to get in touch or visit [AQA's Scheme of Assessment](#) for more information.

Revision

What revision tools are available to my son?

While there are many revision resources available both online and in print, these are the most important ones to focus on:

- **Google Classroom:** The most essential revision tool for your son is the material available on his History Google Classroom. The Google Classroom contains a wealth of valuable content, including:
 - **Classroom Notes:** These provide concise information and essay answers.
 - **Lesson Slides:** A visual accompaniment to the classroom notes, reinforcing key concepts.
 - **Revision Resources:** A comprehensive collection, including summary revision guides, full revision guides, workbooks, flashcards, and exam-style questions.
 - **Links to Online Resources:** Direct access to valuable online platforms like Seneca Learning and BBC Bitesize.
 - **Links to Multimedia Resources:** A curated list of recommended podcasts, films, documentaries, books, and websites for each topic.
- **Oxford AQA GCSE History (9-1) revision guides:** I recommend purchasing revision guides for each study area. These guides are excellent for breaking down the content into manageable sections and offering useful exam tips that can significantly aid in your son's revision.



What revision techniques should my son be using?

While everyone has their preferred techniques for revising, I would like to offer the following recommendations for revising GCSE History. Your son can use the revision resources listed above as a foundation for these techniques:

- **Exam style questions:** Regularly practising exam-style questions is crucial. This practice helps with familiarity of the exam format and question types, enhancing time management and answer structuring skills. Your son can find a booklet of exam-style questions on his Google Classroom, which includes multiple sample questions. I am more than happy to review and provide feedback on any questions he answers.
- **Timelines:** Create visual timelines to depict the chronological order of historical events. Use linear representations with dates, illustrations, and colour-coding to help your son understand the sequence of events and their significance. This method aids in visualising connections between different events and periods.
- **Flashcards:** Utilise flashcards for key dates, terms, and concepts. Flashcards are an effective way to reinforce important information and facilitate quick recall during revision sessions.
- **Mind Maps:** Develop mind maps to organise and connect key ideas and concepts. This technique helps in visualising relationships between topics and makes it easier to recall information during exams.
- **Completing Revision Workbooks:** Workbooks offer structured exercises and practice questions that reinforce understanding and provide opportunities for self-assessment. Your son can also find these on his Google Classroom.
- **Online Resources:** Leverage online platforms like Seneca Learning and BBC Bitesize for interactive and engaging revision activities. These resources provide additional practice and explanations that complement classroom learning.

What can I do at home with my son to support his achievement?

Below are some ideas to help your son reach his potential in History. This list is intended to provide inspiration rather than serve as a checklist:

- **Check Prep Work:** Ensure your son has completed his prep work, which predominantly consists of exam questions and revision tasks. These tasks are designed to review past topics and skills, and to help reduce exam pressure in June.
- **Encourage Resource Use:** Please encourage your son to actively use the resources listed above as part of his structured revision. These materials are designed to support and enhance his study efforts.
- **Test Your Son:** Use his revision mind maps and flashcards to test his knowledge. This active recall method can reinforce his understanding and highlight areas that need further review.

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- **Create a Study Schedule:** Help your son develop a structured study schedule to establish a routine and avoid feelings of overwhelm. Encourage him to balance his History revision with other subjects and activities. Starting revision early can make a significant difference.
- **Set Clear Goals:** Motivate your son to set specific, achievable goals for each study session, such as completing a mind map or memorising key dates. Clear goals can help him stay focused and measure his progress.
- **Quiet Study Space:** Provide a calm and organised study environment free from distractions, such as mobile phones. Minimise noise, ensure comfortable seating, and consider using noise-cancelling headphones if needed.
- **Use Timers and Breaks:** Implement structured study sessions with built-in breaks and timers. Aim for approximately 20-minute study intervals with short breaks to help your son maintain focus and manage his attention span effectively.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Offer praise, encouragement, and rewards for effort and progress made during revision sessions. Celebrating achievements, no matter how small, can boost your son's confidence and motivation.

If you have any further questions about revision techniques and strategies, please feel free to get in touch.