

Specification Comparison

An overview of the reformed specifications compared to the existing WJEC GCSE specification.

GCSE History	What remains the same?	What is changing?
Aims	The new qualification continues to encourage and develop learners' interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance.	
Content	- The new specification retains studies in depth, period (outline) studies and thematic studies. - The new specification retains options familiar to centres currently with WJEC. These are: - Austerity, Affluence and Discontent, 1951-1979 - Germany in Transition, 1919-1939 - The USA: A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-1929 - The Development of the USA, 1929-2000 - The Development of Germany, 1919-1991 - Changes in Crime and Punishment - Changes in Health and Medicine - Existing resources can be reused for the options listed above.	- Learners are now required to study two depth studies, one British and one non-British, a period study and a thematic study. - Learners are also required to study an historic site, which is nominated, and part of the thematic study. - There is no longer a controlled assessment unit.
Assessment	- The Component 1 papers for the British and non-British Studies in Depth focus extensively on source evaluation and interpretations in history. There are similarities, therefore, between these papers and the existing Unit 1 and 2 papers in the strengthened specification. - The Component 2 papers for the Period and Thematic Studies focus extensively on change over time and longer sweeps of history. There are similarities, therefore, between these papers and the existing Unit 3 papers in the strengthened specification. - The accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will continue to be assessed by 'SPaG' marks that are added to the tariff of three extended responses in the study in depth and thematic papers.	- Grades 9-1 rather than A*-G. - Assessment is by examination only. There is no controlled assessment. - There are four examination papers rather than the current three. There are two examination papers of one hour duration each in Component 1, one for each depth study, and two examination papers of 45 minutes and one hour fifteen minutes respectively for the period and thematic studies in Component 2