



GCSE History

September 2026

SEAFORD COLLEGE

HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS – MS ALISON THOMAS

Why should you choose it?



Passionate, enthusiastic, supportive teachers who help you achieve excellent grades



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Understand the past so YOU can navigate the present and change the future!

Edexcel IGCSE Course content

1.The Origins and Course of the First
World War 1905-1918

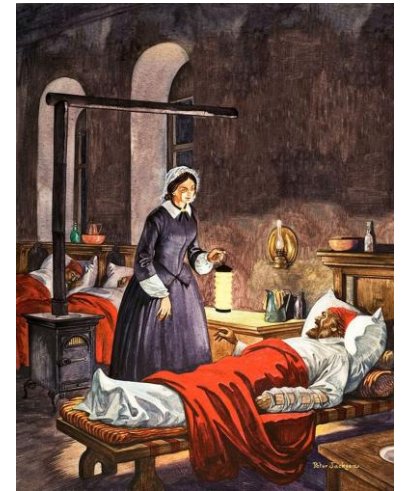
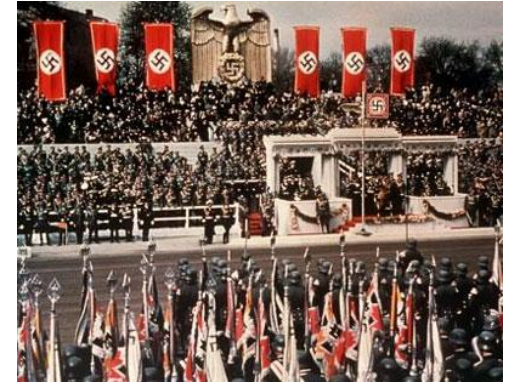
2. Germany, 1918-1945

3.Civil Rights in the USA, 1945-1974

4.Changes in Medicine, 1848-1948

Paper 1

Paper 2



Assessment: Edexcel IGCSE

You have **TWO** exams (no coursework)

Each exam is 1 hr 30 mins, usually a week apart

Essays are worth 52% of the overall mark.

Paper 1 : Depth Studies(50%)		Paper 2 : Investigation and Breadth(50%)	
Germany, 1918-1945	Civil Rights in the USA, 1945-74	The Origins and Course of the First World War, 1905-1918	Changes in Medicine 1848-1948
1. Source Impression (6) 2. Short answer: 2 effects (8) 3. Essay (16)	1. Source Impression (6) 2. Short answer: 2 effects (8) 3. Essay (16)	1. Short answer (6) 2. Comparison of 2 primary sources (8) 3. Source essay using own knowledge and sources (16)	1. Short answer about differences (6) 2. Short answer about 2 causes (8) 3. Essay (16)

What might the exam look like? Sample of civil rights from Paper 1

7 A divided union: civil rights in the USA, 1945–74

Study Extract G.

Extract G: From *American History 1860–1990*, published in 2002.

The USA was gripped by the fear of Communism, which affected all areas of public life. Senator Joseph McCarthy was the most infamous ‘witch-hunter’. His anti-communist activities led to a new word in America, ‘McCarthyism’. McCarthy used his privileged position as a Senator to name names. Most of those named were investigated and cleared. Yet for four years McCarthy and his supporters continued to make allegations about individuals and to carry out investigations into government groups. Honourable men such as President Truman’s former Secretary of State, General Marshall, were unfairly accused.

- (a) What impression does the author give about the impact of Senator McCarthy?

You **must** use Extract G to explain your answer.

(6)

- (b) Explain **two** effects of the Watergate scandal on US politics.

(8)

Answer EITHER (c)(i) OR (c)(ii)

EITHER

- (c) (i) ‘Martin Luther King was the individual who made the biggest contribution to the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s.’

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Martin Luther King
- Malcolm X.

You **must** also use information of your own.

(16)

Sample of Paper 2 First World War using primary sources

A1 The origins and course of the First World War, 1905–18

- (a) Describe **TWO** features of **EITHER** the system of alliances and *ententes* before 1914 **OR** the Allied drive to victory (July–November 1918).

(6)

- (b) Study Sources A and B and then answer the question that follows.

Source A: From a letter sent by a senior official at the German Foreign Ministry, 1 July 1911.

At twelve o'clock today, we will announce the arrival of the gunboat, Panther, at the port of Agadir in Morocco. To justify this, we have already encouraged German businessmen in Morocco to send us complaints about their treatment.

We have chosen Agadir because it leads to the valley of the river Sus, the richest mining and agricultural area in southern Morocco. We plan to take and keep this district to settle.

Source B: From a letter written by a senior official at the British Foreign Office, 5 July 1911.

The German plan in Morocco was carefully thought out. As usual with the Germans, it was launched suddenly. The Germans have since claimed that sending a warship to Agadir was to protect their businessmen until Morocco was calm again. However, I believe that after the visit of the Kaiser to Britain in 1907, he was convinced that the British attitude towards Germany had improved. He now believes that Germany can succeed in splitting Britain from France.

How far does Source A support the evidence of Source B about Germany's actions at the start of the Second Moroccan Crisis (1911)?

Explain your answer.

(8)

- (c) Study Extract C and then answer the question that follows.

Extract C: From an online article on the Second Moroccan Crisis (1911), published in 2012.

Germany intervened in Morocco in 1911 mainly for economic reasons. The Algeiras Conference in 1906 had never really sorted out the problems of Morocco. From 1908, the German government decided to demand a better share of the economic riches that they believed Morocco offered. For example, German companies wanted valuable mining rights in southern Morocco. However, there were those in the British government who believed that Germany's real aim was to achieve European domination by creating divisions between the great powers. Many Frenchmen were also alarmed that this was Germany's real intention.

Extract C suggests that Germany's intervention in Morocco in 1911 was mainly for economic reasons.

How far do you agree with this interpretation?

Use Extract C, Sources A and B and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(16)

(Total for Question A1 = 30 marks)

Expectations of GCSE History students



Enjoy History and be curious to know and understand more about your world



Open-minded and willing to listen



Hard working, ambitious and determined to put effort energy in to make progress in lessons and for prep



Complete regular timed exam questions to practise new skills



Complete facts tests to help embed new knowledge



Future pathways

- Supports most degree choices- including sciences and provides important curriculum breadth
- Develops the ability to write coherent essays and reports.
- Well respected by all institutions and professions.
- Encourages analytical thinking skills

Any questions?

If you have any questions regarding the content of the course and how it is assessed, please contact me using athomas@seaford.org

GCSE History Trips: Berlin 2023 and 2025 and Battlefields 2024

