



HISTORY (Edexcel)

Level of Study: A-Level

Description of Course

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History consists of **three externally examined papers** *and* **coursework**. The course is linear and all assessment happens at the end of the A-Level in Year 13.

The following units and topics are studied:

- **Paper 1, Option 1F: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917-96, 30%**
- **Paper 2, Option 2F.2: South Africa, 1948-94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation', 20%**
- **Paper 3, Option 36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780-1928, 30%**
- **Coursework – Interpretations of the Russian Revolution, 20%**

Year 12: Papers 1 and 2

Papers 1 and 2 are united by the common theme (or Route F): Searching for Rights and Freedom in the Twentieth Century.

Paper 1, Option 1F: In search of the American Dream: the USA, 1917–96

The topics studied are:

- The changing political environment, 1917-80
- The quest for civil rights, 1917-80
- Society and culture in change, 1917-80
- The changing quality of life, 1917-80
- What impact did the Reagan presidency (1981-89) have on the USA in the years 1981-96?

The exam is comprised of:

- One essay on a depth topic (up to ten years)
- One essay on a breadth theme (at least a third of the time period)
- One essay examining two different historical interpretations of Reagan.

Paper 2, Option 2F.2: South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'.

The topics studied are:

- The response to apartheid, c1948-59
- Radicalisation of resistance and consolidation of National Party Power, 1960-1968
- Redefining resistance and challenges to National Party Power, 1968-83
- The end of apartheid and the creation of the 'rainbow nation', 1984-1994

The exam is comprised of:

- One source question using two sources
- One essay on a depth topic



Year 13: Paper 3 and Coursework

Paper 3, Option 36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780-1928

This option comprises two parts: the *Aspects in breadth* focus on long-term changes and contextualise the *Aspects in depth*, which focus in detail on key episodes.

The topics studied are:

Depth Topics:

- Radical reformers, c1790-1819
- Chartism, c1838-1850
- Contagious Diseases Act and the campaign for their repeal, 1862-1886
- The Women's Social and Political Union, 1903-1914
- Trade union militancy, 1917-1927

Breadth Topics

- Reform of parliament
- Changing influences in parliament: the impact of parliamentary reform

The exam is comprised of:

- One source question based on two sources
- One essay on a depth topic (up to ten years)
- One essay on a breadth theme

Coursework – Interpretations of the Russian Revolution

For the coursework students write one extended essay which compares different interpretations written by historians about the Russian Revolution. They complete a short content based course which starts with the reign of Nicholas II and examines the build up and reasons for the Russian Revolution. This is followed by a skills based course, which examines historiography and the different skills in comparing and evaluating interpretations. Finally students write their essay where they compare three accounts and explain the similarities and differences, the reasons for these similarities and differences and their opinion of the interpretations. The three coursework questions are:

1. How far do you agree that the First World War was the main reason for the Russian Revolutions of 1917?
2. How far do you agree that the October Revolution of 1917 was a 'coup d'état' rather than a popular uprising?
3. How far do you agree that Lenin was the main reason for the success of the October Revolution of 1917?

Skills Required

A historian needs to enquire beyond the obvious and the superficial. You will need to think, to listen, to read and, above all, to write analytically. You should have a grade 6 or higher in GCSE English Language. A willingness to interpret historical information, and the ability then to express your findings, whether in discussion, or in writing, are required. You should be able to analyse and to evaluate historical sources and interpretations.

Entry Qualifications

Grade 5 or above in GCSE History or in a related Humanities subject is required as well as English. Please be aware that this is a minimum requirement.



Method of Assessment

Unit	Method	Amount/Length	Weighting
1	Written Examination Paper 1: Breadth Study Option 1F: In search of the American Dream: the USA	Examination: 2 hours 15 minutes Essay questions.	30%
2	Written Examination Paper 2:Depth Study Option 2F.2: South Africa, 1948-94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'	Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes Essay and source-based questions	20%
3	Written Examination Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth Option 36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780-1928	Examination: 2 hours 15 minutes Essay and source-based questions	30%
4	Coursework Interpretations of the Russian Revolution	Coursework essay based on historical interpretations. One piece of extended writing 3,000-4,000 words	20%

Contact Name Miss E Allen

EA@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk

Educational Progression and Career Opportunities

Success in History, at all levels, indicates an ability to present an argument (written or verbal) and to consider all the implications of complex issues. Such abilities are the foundation for any career which provides its own additional, specialist training. This explains why those with history qualifications are found not only in the more obvious areas of history teaching, archives and museum administration, but also, in greater numbers than ever, in the law, computing, the financial services, advertising, marketing, publishing, politics and so on. Any History qualification enhances employability and makes you more interesting too!