

History GCSE Changes

Content

The first assessment will be in Summer 2018 - **we do not need to teach this new course until September 2017** because of our Short Fat structure.

Summary of changes

- Students will study 3 eras of History - Medieval, Early Modern and Modern.
- 100% external assessment, i.e. no coursework
- There will be a 40% British History focus
- Students will also study the history of a locality and the wider world
- 5 components - thematic study overtime, a period study, a British study, wider world study and a historic environment study.
- SPaG is 5% of the overall mark but only tested on one paper

Assessment and Grades

- In 2017 exams will begin to be marked 1-9 where 9 is the highest.
- There is still a U grade for those who do not achieve a 1

Roughly the new grades equate to the old as below:

New	Current Equivalent
9	A* *
8	
7	A
6	
5	
4	C
3	
2	E
1	F/G

Half of the current A grades will attain a 9 under the new system

Why reform?

The idea behind the GCSE reform is to raise standards and rigour surrounding exams. As such the new GCSE are of a higher standard which raises the question - what is a 'good' pass? Currently this would be viewed as a 'C' but under the new system the government wants to increase this to the equivalent of a 'B'. There is also a government concern with equalling international performance and achieving half a grade higher would put the UK on a par with other strong performing education systems.

The results of Summer 2017 will be awarded statistically - i.e. the % of students who have previously gained a C would gain a 4 under the new system. However, this will change and as the exams progress the judgement of senior examiners, especially along grade boundaries, will play an increasing role.

National Reference tests in Maths and English will also help to compare one cohort to the next to understand relative achievement.