

Summer 2022 GCSE Examination Changes

SUBJECT: GCSE History

Examining Board : AQA

Because of the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there are some changes to how GCSE History will be assessed in 2022.

These changes are for 2022 only.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Only three out of four studies required
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) marks reduced
- Total marks and total exam time reduced
- New entry codes to reflect changes
- No advance information on exams

ONLY THREE OUT OF FOUR STUDIES REQUIRED

Students will only answer questions on three out of four studies. There will be a mixture of compulsory and optional studies.

The compulsory study will be the Wider World Depth study (Paper 1, Section B).

Students will also answer questions on two of the remaining three optional studies:

- the Period study (Paper 1, Section A)
- the Thematic study (Paper 2, Section A)
- the British Depth study with the historic environment (Paper 2, Section B).

SPELLING, PUNCTUATION AND GRAMMAR (SPAG) MARKS REDUCED

We're reducing the overall number of marks allocated to assessing SPaG to four marks.

We're removing the SPaG marks from Question 4 on the Thematic study (now optional). This will ensure that all students will be marked out of the same total number of marks, and have access to the same number of SPaG mark opportunities, regardless of the combination of optional topics chosen.

SPaG marks will now only be attached to Question 4 on the compulsory Wider World Depth study.

TOTAL MARK ALLOCATION REDUCED

We're reducing the total exam marks available from 168 to 124 marks.

- 44 marks will be allocated to the compulsory study, including four marks for SPaG.
- 40 marks will be allocated to each of the (two chosen) optional studies.

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This is because of the reduction in SPaG marks and because students will only answer questions on three out of four studies.

TOTAL EXAM TIME REDUCED

We're reducing the total exam time for GCSE History from four hours to three hours. This is because students will only be taking three studies in 2022, instead of four.

We'll update the front sheet of our question papers to reflect this change.

NEW ENTRY CODES

The changes for 2022 also mean that the normal entry codes used from 2018 to 2020 have been updated to reflect the new entry route combinations.

To find your new entry codes, use our [entry code tool](#).

NO ADVANCE INFORMATION ON EXAMS

There will be no advance information on what exams will cover for GCSE History.

NO OTHER CHANGES

The format and wording of the questions will remain exactly the same, as will the mark schemes for each question.

The specification content for each individual topic will also remain the same.

The historic environment sites for 2022 are unchanged. The resource packs for these 2022 sites are available on [e-AQA](#).