



Year 12 Syllabus in a nutshell

A Level History





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Both Early and Late Modern groups will have completed the relevant British and European history units and be part way through the Themes paper and coursework.

Early Modern

Unit Y108: The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603–1660

British Period Study: The Early Stuarts 1603–1646

Key Topics Content

James I and Parliament James I and Divine Right; James I and his financial problems, inherited problems, the inadequacy of royal finances, James I and his extravagance, financial disputes, the Great Contract; James I and foreign policy, his aims and reactions to the policy in Parliament, peace with Spain (1604), England and the Thirty Years War, the Spanish Match.

James I and religion The religious situation in 1603; the Anglican Church and Puritanism; the Hampton Court Conference (1604), the development of Arminianism, the growth of Puritan opposition; James' attitude to Catholics; the Gunpowder Plot; the impact of Catholicism on policies.

Charles I 1625–1640 Charles' aims and problems in 1625; relations with Parliament and the impact of foreign policy; financial problems, Buckingham; the dissolution of parliament in 1629; Personal Rule and the reasons for embarking on Personal Rule, financial policies and the reactions to them, Laud's religious policies and the reaction to them; Wentworth and the policy of Thorough in England and Ireland, Scotland and the Bishops' Wars, the breakdown of Personal Rule.

Charles I and the victory of Parliament

1640–1646

The Short and Long Parliaments; the aims and policies of Charles and the opposition; the crises of 1640–1642, including Pym, dismantling of prerogative government, divisions over reform of the Church, the impact of the Irish Rebellion, the Grand Remonstrance, the Five Members; the outbreak of Civil War; Royalists and Parliamentarians (strengths and weaknesses), the course and outcome of the First Civil War, the formation of the New Model Army, the development of neutralism.

Enquiry Topic: The Execution of Charles I and the Interregnum 1646–1660

The failure to achieve a settlement

1646–1649

Negotiations with Charles I; the role of Oliver Cromwell, the Scots and the army; the emergence and growth of radicalism, the Leveller debate and the reaction to them; the Second Civil War; religious issues; Pride's Purge; the trial and execution of Charles I.

Commonwealth and Protectorate Religious and political issues, the rule of the Rump Parliament 1649–1653, its achievements and dismissal; the Parliament of the Saints (Barebones); the Instrument of Government; Cromwell as Lord Protector, royalist plots, the offer of the throne, the role of the army; the rule of the Major Generals; Cromwell in Ireland; death of Oliver Cromwell.

The Restoration of Charles II Richard Cromwell; the role of the army and General Monck in the



Restoration; the Convention Parliament; Charles II's actions, the Declaration of Breda; proclamation of Charles as king and the reaction to his return.

Unit Y205: Exploration, Encounters and Empire 1445–1570

Key Topics Content

Exploration Reasons why this was an age of exploration; Renaissance learning and values; trade; religion; technological change; Ottoman expansion; geography of and internal developments in Portugal and Spain; motives for patronage; motives and contributions of individual explorers: Diaz, da Gama, Vespucci, Columbus, Magellan, Balboa, Cabral, Cortes, Pizarro; routes; difficulties faced.

Encounters and conquest The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494); encounters by Portugal: Atlantic and Americas, Africa, Asia; encounters by Spain: the Caribbean, the Americas; Portuguese conquest: Albuquerque, Brazil; Spanish Conquests: the Caribbean, Mexico (Moctezuma II), Panama and Peru (Atahualpa); difficulties faced in encounters and conquests; reasons for success; gains and losses for individual explorers and their patrons.

Settlement and consequences Portuguese forts, staging and trading posts: Africa, India and the Far East; settlement of Brazil; Spanish settlement of the Caribbean, Mexico, Panama and Peru; central and local administrative systems by Spain and Portugal; consequences (military, economic, social, religious) for indigenous peoples of Portuguese and Spanish conquest and settlements.

Impact of overseas empire on Europe Political, religious, social, economic and financial consequences for Portugal, Spain and Europe; European balance of power; bullion; the slave trades; the balance sheet of personal and national benefits and losses.

Unit Y308: The Catholic Reformation 1492–1610

Key Topics Content

The nature of the Catholic Reformation The condition of the Catholic Church in the 1490s; the Church's reaction to humanism and Protestantism; early attempts at reform including Savonarola, Loyola and Papal reforms; whether the revival was a Catholic or Counter Reformation; methods of reform and revival; regional variations and the response of the laity, clergy and monarchs.

Institutional reforms The role of the Papacy; Inquisition; Index; Councils (Lateran and Trent, the decisions made and their impact); the Society of Jesus; new and traditional orders; including the capuchins; the oratory of Divine Love; the Ursulines and Theatines.

Role of individuals The contributions to the Catholic revival of Erasmus, Cisneros, Paul III, Loyola, Charles V, Philip II, Paul IV, Pius IV, Pius V, Gregory XIII, Sixtus V, Clement VIII, Carlo Borromeo, Francis Xavier, Vincent de Paul and Teresa of Avila.

Impact of the Catholic Reformation Comparative extent of reform and revival in Spain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, the Holy Roman Empire, Eastern Europe, South America and the Far East; opposition and obstacles to reform; the spiritual condition of the laity; artistic and literary expressions of Catholic faith and revival

Depth Studies Content



Council of Trent Desire for reform within the Church prior to Trent; the attitude, actions and role of Paul III; circumstances leading to the first session; discussions in the first session; the role of subsequent popes and individuals in the following sessions; debate and argument at Trent; decisions made at Trent; the impact of the Tridentine decrees.

Philip II of Spain Background of medieval inquisition and religious reform in Spain; fear of the Jews, Conversos and Moriscos; reaction towards Protestant threats and the traditional fears of heresy and ‘foreigners’; reaction to humanism and illuminism; motives for religious reform; the nature and extent of his support for the Inquisition; religious policies in Spain; Philip as ‘the most Catholic Monarch’.

St Bartholomew’s Day Massacre Religious reform and relations with the Huguenots prior to 1572; the causes of the massacre; the motives of those involved; the role of Catherine de’ Medici; the response of the Parisians and extent of the attack; the effect of the massacre and religious tension; the religious significance of the massacre in France and Europe.

Late Modern

Unit Y113: Britain 1930–1997

Enquiry Topic: Churchill 1930–1951

Key Topics Content

Churchill’s view of events 1929–1940 Why Churchill was out of office 1929–1939; his attitude to the Abdication Crisis; his views about Empire and India and clashes with his party; attitude towards Germany after 1933; his views about rearmament and appeasement; why Churchill became Prime Minister.

Churchill as wartime Prime Minister Why Churchill became Prime Minister; stance in 1940 and style of leadership; relations with his generals and his impact on strategic decisions in the Mediterranean, bombing of Germany and the war in Europe 1944–1945; plans for reconstruction and loss of 1945 election.

Churchill and international diplomacy

1939–1951

Churchill’s view on Britain’s world and imperial role; relations with other wartime leaders (Roosevelt, Stalin and de Gaulle); contribution to international conferences; plans for post-war Europe; Iron Curtain speech; attitude to Empire and Europe after 1945.

British Period Study: Britain 1951–1997

Key Topics Content

Learners should have studied the following:

Conservative domination 1951–1964 Reasons for the Conservative victory 1951; social changes, immigration, unrest, social mobility and tensions, education, living standards, housing, prosperity and unemployment; Conservative economic policies, Butskellism, industrial growth and stagflation; Conservative leadership of Churchill, Eden, Macmillan and Home; scandals including the Vassall affair, Philby, Argyll and Profumo; reasons for Conservative decline; Labour leadership, divisions and electoral failures of the Labour Party.

Labour and Conservative governments

1964–1979

Labour victory 1964, Wilson as leader 1964–1970; economic problems and policies; relations with the Trade Unions; Labour party divisions; 1970 election, Heath as party leader and Prime Minister; aims and policies of Heath’s government; industrial relations, miners’ strike; Wilson and Callaghan 1974–1979, problems and policies 1974–1979.



Thatcher and the end of consensus

1979–1997

Election victories; Thatcher and her ministers; reasons for support and opposition; social and economic policies including monetarism, free-market, supply-side economics and privatisation; social policies and unrest; unemployment and the Trade Unions, the Miners' Strike; fall of Thatcher and replacement with Major; Conservative divisions under Major and electoral defeat 1997.

Britain's position in the world 1951–1997 Relations with and policies towards the USA and the USSR; Britain's influence at the UN; role in Europe; nuclear policy; response to crises: Korean War, Suez, the Falklands War, First Gulf War; decolonisation and changing attitudes to the Commonwealth.

Unit Y213: The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815

Key Topics Content

The causes of the French Revolution from

1774 and the events of 1789

The structure of the Ancien Régime; qualities of Louis XVI as King of France; financial problems and attempts by Turgot, Necker and Calonne to deal with them; the ideas of the Enlightenment and the impact of the American Revolution and the War of Independence; social discontents; economic problems from 1787; the Assembly of Notables and the political developments 1787–May 1789; the Estates General, events in Paris in 1789; the 'Great Fear'; the October Days.

The Revolution from October 1789 to the

Directory 1795

The attempts to establish a constitutional monarchy; reforms in church and state; the significance of riots and direct political action 1789–1792; the Jacobins; the flight to Varennes; the overthrow of the monarchy; the Convention and the Terror; the destruction of the Girondins; the ascendancy and fall of Robespierre; the establishment of the Thermidorian Regime; the constitution of the Directory.

Napoleon Bonaparte to 1807 The career of Bonaparte to 1799: early life and character; his military leadership and reasons for success to 1799 including Toulon, the Italian Campaign, Egypt, the weaknesses of the Thermidorian regime and the coup of Brumaire in 1799; Napoleon's reforms as Consul, including the constitutional, legal, financial, educational changes; the establishment and nature of the Empire in France; nature of and reasons for military successes and failures after 1799: Marengo and the War of the Third Coalition, including the battles of Ulm and Austerlitz, Trafalgar.

The decline and fall of Napoleon 1807–1815 The Continental System and the war against Britain; the war in Spain; the Russian Campaign; Napoleon's rule in France after 1807; the campaigns of 1813–1815 and abdication; the Hundred Days; personal failings and reasons for fall.

Unit Y314: The Challenge of German Nationalism 1789–1919

Key Topics Content

Social and intellectual forces The origins and growth of German nationalism from 1789; the impact of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna; different views, Kleindeutsch v Grossdeutsch; the impact of the



1848/1849 revolutions and the Frankfurt Parliament; mass nationalism and its appeal in the 19th and early 20th centuries; the Kulturkampf; Pan-Germanism; radical nationalism; the impact of the First World War and defeat.

Economic forces Economic nationalism and modernisation; the Zollverein; economic integration; the economic and social effects of industrialisation including the rise of socialism; the impact of railways; arguments for free trade and protection; the effect of economic change on nationalism and national unity.

Political and military forces Managing German nationalism and its opponents; assessment and comparison of the contributions of Napoleon, Metternich, Bismarck and Wilhelm II; the impact of external forces and circumstances on German nationalism including the decline of Austria; the role of warfare in uniting Germany; the Treaty of Versailles; political challenges from the left and right.

The extent of Unification The extent to which Germany and the German people became a united nation in the course of the period; continuing cultural, religious and regional differences; wars as a unifying or divisive influence; the role of Prussia in the development of Germany; constitutional developments; the treatment of Germany's minorities; the contribution of political groups (liberals, conservatives, socialists and communists); the extent to which the new Germany was made and subsequently dominated by Prussia hence 'extent' to which it was genuinely united

Depth Studies Content

1848/1849 Revolutions The social and intellectual forces behind the revolutions; the impact of the revolutions on the development of nationalism; the consequences of the Frankfurt Parliament; economic factors as a cause of the Revolutions; the response of Metternich and the authorities to the Revolutions; support for, and opposition to, the 1848/1849 Revolutions.

Nationalism and Unification 1867–1871 Bismarck's contribution and role; the use of popular feeling; the impact of external forces; the extent to which the war with France unified people; the war and continuing cultural, religious and regional differences; reasons for Prussian victory; consequences of the war and constitutional developments; the relative importance of Bismarck's statesmanship and contextual factors 1862–1871.

Wilhelmine Germany and the growth of Nationalism 1884–1914

Character and ideas of Wilhelm II; the end of Bismarck's period as Chancellor and its significance for Germany's foreign policy; foreign policy aims and methods; Wilhelm II and the Reichstag; military growth, the development of a German navy and its impact, the role of the army in German society and policy-making; German economic growth and its impact; the responsibility of the Kaiser and his government for the First World War