



West Park School

History

Mock Examination 2026

In readiness for your mock examination in History you must **LEARN** and **REVISE** the following content and skills:

In your Year 11 mock GCSE examination, you will sit two examination papers.

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world	Section A: America 1840-1895: Expansion and consolidation Section B: Conflict and tension, 1894-1914 (WW1)	This paper is 2 hours long. It is out of 84 marks.
Paper 2: Shaping the nation	Britain: Health and the People: C. 1000BC to the present day	This paper is 1 hour long. It is out of 44 marks.

General advice:

- ✓ In the exam, be aware of timings. As a general rule, 4marks = 5minutes.
So, you should spend **10 minutes on 8-mark questions, 15 minutes on 12-mark questions and 20 minutes on 16-mark questions.**
- ✓ The 'stem' of each question will always remain the same. Therefore, you should **learn what you should do for each type of question.**
- ✓ The 'tail' of the questions will change. Always ensure your answer is focused on this. Link your evidence back to the question. **As a general rule, the beginning and end of each paragraph should refer to the question.**
- ✓ The provenance of a source is the author, place, time it was created etc. This can be used to understand why a source was written. It might affect the utility. When considering provenance, consider purpose, audience and access to information too.
- ✓ In Section B's there are four SPaG marks available on the final question. These marks can make a big difference so ensure you take extra care over you spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The exam board describe different 'levels of thinking':

Complex	Answers build on the qualities of developed answers. Answers display reasoning that shows <u>the links or connections</u> between evidence or details that are explicitly relevant to the question. Answers may show originality or sophistication. Answers demonstrate <u>substantiated judgement</u> or an awareness of the <u>provisional and problematic nature of historical issues, evidence and interpretations.</u>
Developed	Answers that display <u>more than one step of reasoning or detailed explanation that is explicitly relevant to the question.</u> Answers will sustain an explanation of the differences or similarities in sources or interpretations.
Simple	Answers that <u>describe</u> evidence, features or material relevant to the question. Answers that display <u>simple one step reasoning or brief</u> explanation of a point or comment that is <u>explicitly relevant to the question.</u> Answers may recognise, describe and may explain, simple similarities or differences in sources or interpretations.
Basic	Answers that <u>identify</u> evidence, features or material relevant to the question. Explanation is likely to be implicit or by assertion. Answers <u>take features of sources or interpretations at face value.</u> Material discussed may have implicit relevance.

Exam Board Specifications

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

Section A: Period studies: America 1840-1895: Expansion and consolidation

Part one: Expansion: opportunities and challenges

The geography of North America: attitudes to the Great American Desert; the belief in 'Manifest Destiny'. Why the early settlers went west and the challenges they faced: Brigham Young and the Mormons; the pioneer migrant farmers, the journey west; the miners. Dealing with a different culture: the Plains Indians' way of life; early American Government policy towards the Plains Indians; the Permanent Indian Frontier; a changing relationship with the Plains Indians.

Part two: Conflict across America

Increasing conflict on the Plains: the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) and the failure of the policy of concentration; the Indian Wars (1862–1867): reasons for and consequences of the Wars; Sand Creek Massacre; Fetterman's Trap.

The background to the American Civil War: differences between North and South, issues of slavery, westward expansion and free states abolitionism; breakdown of the Missouri Compromise, John Brown, the roles of Lincoln and Jefferson Davis; the social and economic impact of the American Civil War on civilian populations.

Coming to terms with the Mormons: the Mountain Meadow Massacre and its aftermath.

Part three: Consolidation: forging the nation

The aftermath of the American Civil War: the 13th Amendment; Civil Rights Act; reconstruction in the South, 1866–1877; carpetbaggers; the balance of Federal and State powers.

The continued settlement of the west: the Homesteaders, reasons for going west; government actions and laws; land and railroads; farming problems and solutions.

The resolution of 'the Indian problem' after 1865: the small reservations policy; attitudes to the native Americans; Battle of the Little Big Horn; The Dawes Act; Battle of Wounded Knee; the closing of the frontier and its impact on native Americans

Section B: Wider world depth studies: Conflict and tension, 1894–1918

Part one: The causes of the First World War

The Alliance System: the Triple Alliance; Franco-Russian Alliance; relations between the 'Entente' powers; the crises in Morocco (1905 and 1911) and the Balkans (1908–1909), and their effects on international relations.

Anglo-German rivalry: Britain and challenges to Splendid Isolation; Kaiser Wilhelm's aims in foreign policy, including Weltpolitik; colonial tensions; European rearmament, including the Anglo-German naval race.

Outbreak of war: Slav nationalism and relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary; the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo and its consequences; the July Crisis; the Schlieffen Plan and Belgium; reasons for the outbreak of hostilities and the escalation of the conflict.

Part two: The First World War: stalemate

The Schlieffen Plan: the reasons for the plan, its failure, including the Battle of Marne and its contribution to the stalemate.

The Western Front: military tactics and technology, including trench warfare; the war of attrition; key battles, including Verdun, the Somme and Passchendaele, the reasons for, the events and significance of these battles.

The wider war: the war on other fronts; Gallipoli and its failure; the events and significance of the war at sea, including Jutland, the U-Boat campaign and convoys.

Part three: Ending the war

Changes in the Allied Forces: consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution and the withdrawal of Russia on Germany strategy; the reasons for and impact of the entry of the USA into the war. Military developments in 1918 and their contribution to Germany's defeat: the evolution of tactics and technology; Ludendorff the German Spring Offensive; the Allied advance during The Hundred Days.

Germany surrenders: impact of the blockade; abdication of the Kaiser; armistice; the contribution of Haig and Foch to Germany's defeat.

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

Section A: Thematic study: Britain: Health and the People c100 to present day

Students will study the importance of the following factors:	This option focuses on the following questions:
➤ war ➤ superstition and religion ➤ chance ➤ government ➤ communication ➤ science and technology ➤ the role of the individual in encouraging or inhibiting change.	➤ Why has there been progress in the health of the British people? ➤ How and why has the pace and scale of medical development varied at different times? ➤ What impact has medical progress had on people and society? ➤ How and why have different factors been more important than others for individual medical developments? ➤ What is the significance of key individuals or events in the history of medical development?

Part one: Medicine stands still

Medieval medicine: approaches including natural, supernatural, ideas of Hippocratic and Galenic methods and treatments; the medieval doctor; training, beliefs about cause of illness. Medical progress: the contribution of Christianity to medical progress and treatment; hospitals; the nature and importance of Islamic medicine and surgery; surgery in medieval times, ideas and techniques.

Public health in the Middle Ages: towns and monasteries; the Black Death in Britain, beliefs about its causes, treatment and prevention.

Part two: The beginnings of change

The impact of the Renaissance on Britain: challenge to medical authority in anatomy, physiology and surgery; the work of Vesalius, Paré, William Harvey; opposition to change. Dealing with disease: traditional and new methods of treatments; quackery; methods of treating disease; plague; the growth of hospitals; changes to the training and status of surgeons and physicians; the work of John Hunter. Prevention of disease: inoculation; Edward Jenner, vaccination and opposition to change.

Part three: A revolution in medicine

The development of Germ Theory and its impact on the treatment of disease in Britain: the importance of Pasteur, Robert Koch and microbe hunting; Pasteur and vaccination; Paul Ehrlich and magic bullets; everyday medical treatments and remedies.

A revolution in surgery: anaesthetics, including Simpson and chloroform; antiseptics, including Lister and carbolic acid; surgical procedures; aseptic surgery. Improvements in public health: public health problems in industrial Britain; cholera epidemics and the role of public health reformers; local and national government involvement in public health improvement, including the 1848 and 1875 Public Health Acts.

Part four: Modern medicine

Modern treatment of disease: the development of the pharmaceutical industry; penicillin, its discovery by Fleming, its development; new diseases and treatments, antibiotic resistance; alternative treatments.

The impact of war and technology on surgery: plastic surgery; blood transfusions; X-rays; transplant surgery; modern surgical methods, including lasers, radiation therapy and keyhole surgery.

Modern public health: the importance of Booth, Rowntree, and the Boer War; the Liberal social reforms; the impact of two world wars on public health, poverty and housing; the Beveridge Report and the Welfare State; creation and development of the National Health Service; costs, choices and the issues of healthcare in the 21st century.