



Year 11 GCSE exams: Revision Guidance

Circulation	Year 11 Students
Title	Y11 GCSE exams Revision Guidance
Purpose	To provide revision information for GCSE examinations

You will sit two papers on the following dates:

Paper 1 - Friday 15th May (AM):

- **Democracy and Dictatorship: Germany 1890–1945**
- **Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972**

Paper 2 - Thursday 4th June (AM)

- **Power and the people: c1170 to the present day**
- **Elizabethan England, c1568–1603**

Revision topics: Democracy and Dictatorship: Germany 1890–1945

Part one: Germany and the growth of democracy

- Kaiser Wilhelm and the difficulties of ruling Germany: the growth of parliamentary government; the influence of Prussian militarism; industrialisation; social reform and the growth of socialism; the domestic importance of the Navy Laws.
- Impact of the First World War: war weariness, economic problems; defeat; the end of the monarchy; post-war problems including reparations, the occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation.
- Weimar democracy: political change and unrest, 1919–1923, including Spartacists, Kapp Putsch and the Munich Putsch; the extent of recovery during the Stresemann era (1924–1929); economic developments including the new currency, Dawes Plan and the Young Plan; the impact of international agreements on recovery; Weimar culture.

Part two: Germany and the Depression

- The impact of the Depression: growth in support for the Nazis and other extremist parties (1928–1932), including the role of the SA; Hitler's appeal.
- The failure of Weimar democracy: election results; the role of Papen and Hindenburg and Hitler's appointment as Chancellor.
- The establishment of Hitler's dictatorship: the Reichstag Fire; the Enabling Act; elimination of political opposition; trade unions; Rohm and the Night of the Long Knives; Hitler becomes Führer.

Part three: The experiences of Germans under the Nazis

- Economic changes: benefits and drawbacks; employment; public works programmes; rearmament; self-sufficiency; the impact of war on the economy and the German people, including bombing, rationing, labour shortages, refugees.
- Social policy and practice: reasons for policies, practices and their impact on women, young people and youth groups; education; control of churches and religion; Aryan ideas, racial policy and persecution; the Final Solution.
- Control: Goebbels, the use of propaganda and censorship; Nazi culture; repression and the police state and the roles of Himmler, the SS and Gestapo; opposition and resistance, including White Rose group, Swing Youth, Edelweiss Pirates and July 1944 bomb plot.



Revision topics: Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972

Part one: The origins of the Cold War

- The end of the Second World War: Yalta and Potsdam Conferences; the division of Germany; contrasting attitudes and ideologies of the USA and the USSR, including the aims of Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt, Attlee and Truman; effect of the dropping of the atom bomb on post-war superpower relations.
- The Iron Curtain and the evolution of East-West rivalry: Soviet expansion in East Europe; US policies; the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan, their purpose and Stalin's reaction; Cominform; Comecon; Yugoslavia; the Berlin Blockade and Airlift.

Part two: The development of the Cold War

- The significance of events in Asia for superpower relations: USSR's support for Mao Tse-tung and Communist revolution in China, and the military campaigns waged by North Korea against the UN and by the Vietcong against France and the USA.
- Military rivalries: the arms race; membership and purposes of NATO and the Warsaw Pact; the space race, including Sputnik, ICBMs, Polaris, Gagarin, Apollo.
- The 'Thaw': Hungary, the protest movement and the reforms of Nagy; Soviet fears, how they reacted and the effects on the Cold War; the U2 Crisis and its effects on the Paris Peace Summit and the peace process.

Part three: Transformation of the Cold War

- Berlin Wall: reasons for its construction and Kennedy's response.
- Tensions over Cuba: Castro's revolution, the Bay of Pigs and the missile crisis: the roles of Castro, Khrushchev, Kennedy; fears of the USA and reaction to missiles on Cuba; dangers and results of crisis.
- Czechoslovakia: Dubcek and the Prague Spring movement; USSR's response to the reforms; the effects the Prague Spring had on East-West relations, including the Warsaw Pact; the Brezhnev Doctrine.
- Easing of tension: sources of tension, including the Soviets' record on human rights; the reasons for Détente and for SALT 1; the part played by key individuals Brezhnev and Nixon.

Revision topics: Power and the people: c1170 to present day

Part one: Challenging authority and feudalism

- Constraints on kingship: the barons' dissatisfaction with King John's rule and its resolution; Magna Carta, its terms and its short and long-term impact.
- The origins of parliament: issues between King Henry III and his barons; the role of Simon de Montfort; the Provisions of Oxford and the Parliament of 1265 and their short and long-term impact.
- Medieval revolt and royal authority: the social, economic and political causes of the Peasants Revolt; actions by rebels and government; impact of the Peasants' Revolt.

Part two: Challenging royal authority

- Popular uprisings against the Crown: the social, economic, religious and political causes of the Pilgrimage of Grace; the implications for royal authority; Henry VIII and his government's reaction and the impact of the uprising.
- Divine Right and parliamentary authority: the causes of the English Revolution; the New Model Army and the development of political radicalism during the Civil War era; the short and long-term impact of the English Revolution, including the significance of trial and execution of Charles I and Oliver Cromwell and the Commonwealth.
- Royal authority and the right to representation: the causes of the American Revolution including the relationship between the government and people; impact and significance of the American Revolution.

Part three: Reform and reformers

- The extension of the franchise: radical protest; the Great Reform Act, causes and impact, including further reform; Chartism, causes, actions and impact.
- Protest and change: campaigning groups and their methods and impact, including the Anti-Slavery movement; the Anti-Corn Law League; factory reformers; social reformers.
- Workers movements: the development of trade unionism and its impact, including Grand National Consolidation Trades Union (GNCTU), Tolpuddle Martyrs, New Model Unions and new unionism, including the match girls' and dockers' strikes.

Part four: Equality and rights

- Women's rights: the campaign for women's suffrage, reasons, methods and responses; role of individuals, including the Pankhursts; the reasons for the extension of the franchise and its impact; progress towards equality in the second half of the 20th century.
- Workers' rights: the General Strike (1926), actions, reactions and impact; trade union reform in the late 20th century.
- Minority rights: the development of multi-racial society since the Second World War; discrimination, protest and reform; the Brixton Riots, their impact, including the Scarman Report.

Revision topics: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

Part one: Elizabeth's court and Parliament

- Elizabeth I and her court: background and character of Elizabeth I; court life, including patronage; key ministers.
- The difficulties of a female ruler: relations with Parliament; the problem of marriage and the succession; the strength of Elizabeth's authority at the end of her reign, including Essex's rebellion in 1601.

Part two: Life in Elizabethan times

- A 'Golden Age': living standards and fashions; growing prosperity and the rise of the gentry; the Elizabethan theatre and its achievements; attitudes to the theatre.
- The poor: reasons for the increase in poverty; attitudes and responses to poverty; the reasons for government action and the seriousness of the problem.
- English sailors: Hawkins and Drake; circumnavigation 1577–1580, voyages and trade; the role of Raleigh.

Part three: Troubles at home and abroad

- Religious matters: the question of religion, English Catholicism and Protestantism; the Northern Rebellion; Elizabeth's excommunication; the missionaries; Catholic plots and the threat to the Elizabethan settlement; the nature and ideas of the Puritans and Puritanism; Elizabeth and her government's responses and policies towards religious matters.
- Mary Queen of Scots: background; Elizabeth and Parliament's treatment of Mary; the challenge posed by Mary; plots; execution and its impact.
- Conflict with Spain: reasons; events; naval warfare, including tactics and technology; the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

Part four: The historic environment of Elizabethan England

- The Globe Theatre

The following aspects of the site should be considered:

- location
- function
- the structure
- people connected with the site eg the designer, originator and occupants
- design
- how the design reflects the culture, values, fashions of the people at the time
- how important events/developments from the depth study are connected to the site.

Each exam will be 2 hours long and contains 2 sections.



The paper will contain a variety of question types including short and longer answer questions, as well as questions on sources and interpretations. You must answer all questions in the paper. You will need a black pen and highlighters [for question and source annotations] for your exam. Ensure that any work you do not want the examiner to mark (e.g. plans) have been clearly crossed out.

Further detail and revision materials can be found here:

Past Papers: [AQA History Past Papers](#)

Save my exams: [AQA GCSE History Save my exams](#)

BBC Bitesize: [AQA GCSE History BBC Bitesize](#)

GCSEPod: [GCSEPod](#)

Seneca: [AQA GCSE History Seneca](#)

Google form quizzes:

[Cold War origins](#)

[Cold War crises](#)

[Weimar Germany Quiz 1](#)

[Weimar Germany Quiz 2](#)

[Nazi Germany Quiz 1](#)

[Nazi Germany Quiz 2](#)

[Nazi Germany Quiz 3](#)

[Nazi Germany Quiz 4](#)

[Elizabethan England Quiz 1](#)

[Elizabethan England Quiz 2](#)

[Elizabethan England Quiz 3](#)

Please note that these quizzes were made for Edexcel GCSE content, so will not contain all content. There will also be questions that are not related to AQA content that we have covered, but will nonetheless be useful background context. E.g. The Cold War telegrams. There are no Power and the People quizzes here.

Recommendations for usage:

Past Papers - Exam technique, planning questions, and practice under timed conditions.

Save my exams - Notetaking, quizzing and testing, and practice questions

BBC Bitesize - Notetaking

GCSEPod - Notetaking

Seneca - Quizzing and testing

Chat GPT - Excellent for quizzing and testing