History GCSE (OCR B)

There are three exams as follows:

Paper1: Crime and Punishment, 1250-the present, and, The Elizabethans, 1580-1603. (1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper 2: History around us – Ludlow Castle. (1 hour)

Paper 3: The Making of America, 1789-1900, and, Living Under Nazi Rule, 1933-45. (1 hour 45 minutes)

Each exam unit is valued at 20% of the final mark.

SUCCESS TIPS

Students have developed their own revision packs for each of these exams and will be familiar with the advised technique as well as the content requirements.

As well as homework questions and others done in class, students will have completed 2 full sets of mock exams

It is vital to learn the lessons from these mock exams. The final one will occur just after Easter. There will also be voluntary after-school mocks in exam rooms available to those who wish to have the extra exam practice.

Students will be e-mailed a range of teacher-made resources including revision PowerPoints. This information is also available on the shared area.

Students should develop a variety of different revision techniques that work for them. These might include mind maps, revision cards, acrostics, poems, images, and mnemonics

Use the “How do I revise?” video to help you (available on CD/Shared Area)

Complete all homework and assessments in exam timed conditions. After you have finished, use your notes to highlight where you need to put in more work.

Extra and wider reading as well as watching relevant documentaries will help you to gain further insights into the topics being covered in class.

Practice exam style answers using the list of previous questions. All points should involve key terms and specific examples.

Ensure you know the lay-out of the paper as there is little time during the exam.

TIPS ON REVISING

a) Use of revision material

Adapt, manipulate and test revision material you have created (in class or for homework)

Mindmaps · ·	Use of cartoon and other visual clues	Use of songs/poems/rhymes & Mnemonics
Revision Cards (including shortened notes)	Teaching others	Card Sorts

Ideally – these should make full use of colour and images (the more memorable the better). You should also try to make use of moving things around and, at times, interacting with other people (friends or family).

Stick copies of revision material up in areas of your house so your memory is constantly given reminders (use your bedroom wall/ceiling, the fridge or even the walls of your toilet/bathroom!)

One way of testing this is with a simple “cover and tell” technique – check how much you can remember and work to improve. You could also get some

Revision material including written and electronic revision guides (Foundation, Intermediate and Higher grade detail) and PowerPoints used in class are available on the shared area.

b) Simple Knowledge Tests

Use the knowledge tests you have been given to test your basic knowledge

Create questions to challenge yourself and friends. Get your family to test you Keep a record of how well you do and look to improve.

If you don’t improve consider how well you are revising – do you need to change your method of revision (or perhaps when and where you do it).

c) Exam Question Test

This is perhaps the ultimate time-limited way of preparing for your exams once you have got a good grip of revision materials and content. You must practice timings and make improvements yourself.

Use the exam question sheets you have been provided with.

There are two main approaches for this: a) Recreate the environment and timings of a real exam. b) Plan for exam answers – provide the evidence but use bullet points.

d) Mock Exams

Ask your teacher for an exam paper and complete it within realistic exam conditions.

Use your revision notes to check your answers before handing in to you teacher to get feedback.