

GCSE History (8145) specification changes

Summary of changes to command word and stems in questions for 2020 exams

We're making some changes to the command word and stems to a number of our GCSE History questions to make the demands of the questions clearer for all students. To help you see how the changes will look, we've provided examples below from three of our options.

The updated specification and revised specimen assessment materials for all options will be available during September 2019 at aqa.org.uk/history

Paper 1 Section A Question 1 Period Studies

Current command word and question stem	New command word and question stem	Rationale
Read Interpretations A and B in the Interpretations Booklet. How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about Hitler's appeal to the people of Germany? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B .	Read Interpretations A and B in the Interpretations Booklet. How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about Hitler's appeal to the people of Germany? Explain your answer based on what it says in Interpretations A and B .	The instruction has been amended to remind students to look at the content of the interpretations to answer this question.

Paper 1 Section A Question 3 Period Studies

Current command word and question stem	New command word and question stem	Rationale
Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Hitler's appeal to the people of Germany? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.	Which interpretation gives the more convincing opinion about Hitler's appeal to the people of Germany? Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in Interpretations A and B .	The wording of the question has been changed to encourage students to evaluate the content of the interpretation and to get them to think about which interpretation 'gives a more convincing opinion' about the given the issue in the question. The instruction has also been amended to remind students that they should explain their answer based on their contextual knowledge and the content of the interpretations.

Paper 2 Section A Question 3 Thematic Studies

Current command word and question stem	New command word and question stem	Rationale
Compare the Black Death in the Middle Ages with the Cholera epidemics in the 19 th century. In what ways were they similar? Explain your answer with reference to both epidemics.	Explain two ways in which the Black Death in the Middle Ages and the Cholera epidemics in the 19 th century were similar.	The wording of the question has been simplified to make the requirements of the question clearer for students.

Paper 2 Section B Question 1 British Depth Studies

Current command word and question stem	New command word and question stem	Rationale
Read Interpretation A in the Interpretations Booklet. How convincing is Interpretation A about the career of Sir Walter Raleigh? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.	Read Interpretation A in the Interpretations Booklet. How convincing is Interpretation A about the career of Sir Walker Raleigh? Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in Interpretation A .	We've clarified the requirements of the question to remind students that they need to explain their answer based on their contextual knowledge and the content of the interpretation.