

Dear Colleague

An Update: GCSE History Unit 2 exams in January 2010

Following the publication of our new GCSE History specifications we have received several requests from teachers for an examination in the January 2010 series. After conducting research, and analysing teachers' responses, we have now decided to offer examinations for Unit 2 only in the January 2010 series, for both Modern World and SHP GCSE History specifications. From June 2010 onwards, all examined units will be offered in the January and June series.

Choose Edexcel's GCSEs in History for 2009: great support for better results.

We have developed our GCSE in History Modern World and SHP specifications for 2009 to help your students get better results. We've consulted with hundreds of teachers and have carefully built our new specifications to reflect your wishes and suggestions. Our **greater variety of dedicated published resources** written by our team of experienced examiners and subject experts are tailored to the specification and ready for first teaching this September. Plus both new specifications have the **clearest and most accessible structure** and are explicit about the content you need to cover - where each of the 4 units have an equal weighting of 25%. This structure is reflected in our GCE in History - providing a seamless transition from our GCSE to our GCE specification.

The new GCSE History A (Modern World) for 2009.

With a 20th-century focus, this specification has exciting new features and topics. We now offer a **flexible, modular assessment structure** with a choice of January or June exam sittings so students can complete bite-size chunks and bank success - with **opportunities to re-sit**. With our **more accessible question papers** our assessment is more appropriate to students of all abilities.

The new GCSE History B (SHP) for 2009.

We now offer a **flexible, modular assessment structure** with a greater choice of topics including a **new development study** on '*the changing nature of warfare*' and **new source enquiries** on '*the impact of war in Britain c.1914-c1950*' and '*the work of the historian*'.

The new specification is **perfectly modular** and **all units are entirely freestanding and discreet**. Therefore there is now no requirement to link your Development Study (new Unit 1) and the Source Enquiry (new Unit 3). With our **more accessible question papers** our assessment is more appropriate to students of all abilities.

GCSE 2009 and great support: better results.

Our comprehensive support started last summer - we hope you received your free '**Getting Ready to Teach**' pack containing our specification, Teacher's Guide, Student's Guide and Student Workbook. If you decide to come with us you'll also receive our exclusive **Welcome Materials** this summer. This comprises an editable scheme of work, to help you in the planning and delivery of the course, and extra sample assessment materials to give you and your students the best possible preparation for the final exam.

We're here to listen and support you.

Our Subject Advisor, Mark Battye, is here to help you and answer your history specification questions. Please contact him on 0844 576 0034 or HistorySubjectAdvisor@edexcel.com. For any other questions please send an email from www.edexcel.com/asktheexpert or Ask Edexcel www.edexcel.com/ask

What should I do next?

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your curriculum choices further, then please contact customer services on 0844 576 0027.

If you are interested in delivering our GCSE in History, please either complete the enclosed Intention to Offer form or the online Intention to Offer form at www.edexcel.com/gcse09 as soon as possible or by 30 April 2009. When you indicate that you will be delivering our specification we will send you our exclusive Welcome Materials.

We look forward to welcoming you and working with you to achieve better results for your students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Maureen Alexander
Senior Business Manager - General Qualifications