

# A-Level Transition pack: Sawtry Village Academy

## A-Level History



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Additional department contacts:

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## What's the purpose of this pack?

The purpose of this transition work is to equip you with some of the knowledge and skills that you will need to succeed in A-Level history.

## What's the difference between GCSE history and A-Level history?

1. You'll study different topics
2. You'll study these topics in greater depth
3. You'll have more lessons of history per fortnight and read more outside of class
4. You'll continue to hone and develop the skills real historians use, such as source analysis
5. You'll start to develop formal argument formation
6. You'll utilise a range of examples and evidence to support what you are trying to argue
7. You'll need to read around the subject

## What will I study in the two years?

In Year 12 and year 13 you'll study the following units:

1. Breadth study: Option 1H - Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964 (Studied in Year 12 and 13 and examined at the end of Year 13 – worth 40% of the A-Level qualification)
2. Depth Study: Option 2S – The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007 (Studied in year 12 and 13 and examined at the end of Year 13 – worth 40% of the A-Level qualification)
3. A Historical Investigation into the Tudors – Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) – covering roughly 100 years of history (Completed at various points across year 12 and 13 - Coursework element – worth 20% of the A-Level qualification)

### Within the Year 12 parts of the units, you will study:

**Breadth study** - Year 12 - Part one: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

- Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894
- The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917

**Depth Study** – Year 12 – Part one: building a new Britain, 1951–1979

- The Affluent Society, 1951-64
- The Sixties, 1964 – 1970
- The End of Post War Consensus, 1970-79

### Within the Year 13 parts of the units, you will study:

**Breadth study** - Year 13 - Part two: Part two: the Soviet Union, 1917–1964

- The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941
- The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964

**Depth Study** – Year 13 – Part two: Modern Britain, 1979–2007

- The impact of Thatcherism, 1979–1987

- Towards a new Consensus, 1987–1997
- The Era of New Labour, 1997–2007

Across both year 12 and 13, you'll research and write your Non-Examined Assessment, this will most likely be on the topic area of the Tudors.

## How do I succeed?

There is no one answer to this. You must, like in every subject, work hard. Those who achieve best usually read widely, adding to their knowledge from the core text to better understand the context of the history you're studying. This is easiest if you enjoy the subject. Many who achieve well also consolidate their notes and work each weekend or every fortnight.

## What do I need to avoid?

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is when you copy the work of others (including published books) and do not reference it appropriately or take it as your own. **It is good practice to always write things in your own words** to avoid this. This means that you don't simply copy and paste huge amounts of text or copy direct passages from a textbook.

## Where can I find more information about the exam board?

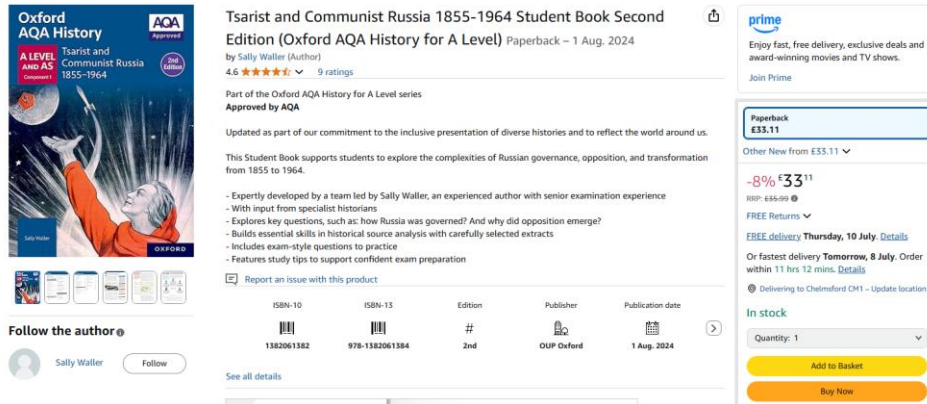
Link to AQA Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/specification-at-a-glance>



## What do I need?

To aid your study of the course across Year 12 and 13 you'll need to purchase the following textbooks. These will be needed for lessons, independent study and are needed in both year 12 and 13. Purchasing a copy of these books is a requirement to study the History A-Level course.

### Tsarist and Communist Russia textbook:



**Oxford AQA History**  
A LEVEL AND AS  
Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964

**Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964 Student Book Second Edition (Oxford AQA History for A Level)** Paperback – 1 Aug. 2024  
by Sally Waller (Author)

4.6 ★★★★★ 9 ratings

Part of the Oxford AQA History for A Level series  
Approved by AQA

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- Builds essential skills in historical source analysis with carefully selected extracts
- Includes exam-style questions to practice
- Features study tips to support confident exam preparation

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1382061382	978-1382061384	2nd	OUP Oxford	1 Aug. 2024

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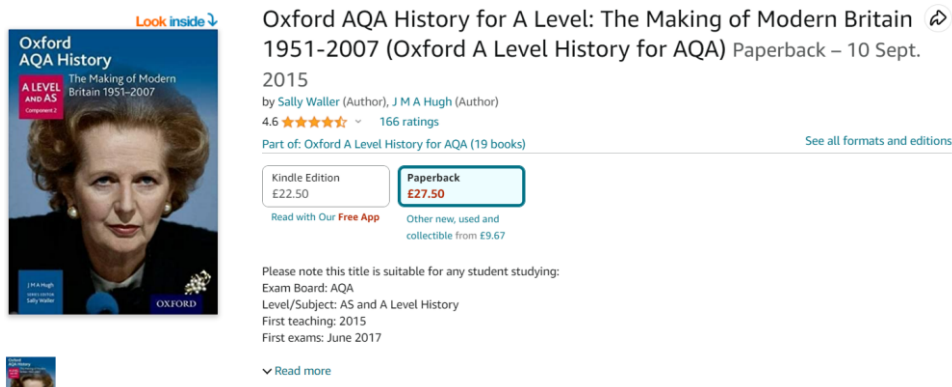
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### The Making of Modern Britain textbook:



**Oxford AQA History**  
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The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007

**Oxford AQA History for A Level: The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007 (Oxford A Level History for AQA)** Paperback – 10 Sept. 2015  
by Sally Waller (Author), J M A Hugh (Author)

4.6 ★★★★★ 166 ratings

Part of: Oxford A Level History for AQA (19 books)

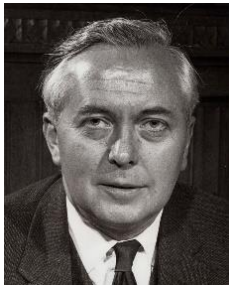
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Exam Board: AQA  
Level/Subject: AS and A Level History  
First teaching: 2015  
First exams: June 2017

Read more



## A-Level History Transition Tasks:

### Option 1H - Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964:

Please use Word or PowerPoint to complete the following tasks.

Task 1: Make a brief fact-file on the following Russian leaders (it's recommended that you use one page of a Word document, or one slide of a PowerPoint, per person).

- Alexander II
- Alexander III
- Nicholas II
- The Provisional Government and Alexander Kerensky
- Lenin

Try to include the following:

- A relevant image
- Dates of when they ruled or governed Russia
- Any key policies they used or implemented
- Any important turning points or events that happened during their rule

Task 2: Find a relevant news article, that investigates Russia and its rulers

You should try to find a news article on a reliable news network (e.g., the BBC or a reputable newspaper) and print this article off. You should be happy to explain how this news article links to your Russia unit.

**The transition tasks for the Russia unit should be handed in/sent to/ready to be presented, in your first Russia lesson of the school year.**

### Option 2S – The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007:

You should be prepared to speak reasonably confidently on any of the tasks below.

Task 1: While your course officially begins in 1951, the following task will give you some contextual information of what happened in post-war Britain, between 1945-1951.

1. Research why the Conservatives lost the 1945 General Election and be prepared to speak for 1 minute to explain the reasons why (you can make prompt cards, if you wish).

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/election\\_01.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/election_01.shtml)

<https://www.historyhit.com/1945-churchill-defeated-labour-party/>

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/ff8\\_election.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/ff8_election.shtml)

Task 2:

Read chapter one of the A-Level Britain textbook (pages 1-11). From this, you should make a multiple-choice quiz (between 10-20 questions), these questions should also be accompanied by a list of the correct answers and should be answerable by others, who have also read the chapter.

**The transition tasks for the Britain unit should be handed in/sent to/ready to be presented, in your first Britain lesson of the school year.**

## NEA Topic: The Tudors

Your aim is to research the following question, using the Spartacus website link, below.

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*“Why was the succession from Edward VI, so problematic?”*

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From this, you should make a PowerPoint presentation (try to keep it between 5-10 slides), to answer the question.

Link to the Tudor page of Spartacus History: <https://spartacus-educational.com/Tudors.htm>

**Help zone:**

- Start by researching Edward VI: <https://spartacus-educational.com/TUDedward6.htm>
- Then research Mary I: <https://spartacus-educational.com/TUDmary1.htm>
- Then research other key individuals (e.g., Lady Jane Gray): <https://spartacus-educational.com/TUDgreyL.htm>
- Be sure to make notes on each person, that will help answer the overall question you are investigating
- Think about any themes or factors that may have come up during your research, such as religion.
- Then you should use this information to make your slides.

**The transition tasks for the NEA unit should be available for inspection by the teacher in your first lesson of the year.**