



What is the Curriculum Intent?

The intent of the Year 8 History curriculum is to deepen students' understanding of significant religious, political, and social changes in Early Modern Europe and Britain. The curriculum explores the impact of the Tudor Reformation, the Renaissance, the English Civil War, the British Empire, the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and the Industrial Revolution. These topics aim to engage students with the complexities of historical change and continuity, helping them understand how power, ideas, and economic systems shape society.

How does the curriculum build on that from Y7 History?

- **Expanding Chronological and Thematic Knowledge:** Year 7 introduced students to medieval history and key turning points. Year 8 extends this by exploring significant changes in the Early Modern period and the Industrial era, helping students understand how these developments transformed society.
- **Exploring Power and Authority in New Contexts:** Building on the study of medieval power struggles, Year 8 examines the political and religious authority during the Tudor Reformation (Topic 1) and the English Civil War (Topic 3), highlighting how power can be challenged and reshaped.
- **Examining Conflict, Warfare, and Cooperation:** Year 7 introduced conflicts like the Norman Conquest; Year 8 expands this by exploring the English Civil War and the dynamics of cooperation and conflict in the British Empire (Topic 4).
- **Deepening the Analysis of Ideas, Attitudes, and Beliefs:** By studying the Renaissance (Topic 2) and the key features of British Colonialism in the nineteenth century (Topic 5), students analyse how new ideas and intellectual movements can bring about significant cultural, social and global changes.
- **Introducing Economic Systems:** The curriculum includes the British Empire (Topic 5) and Industrial Revolution (Topic 6), allowing students to explore the development of economic activities and the impact of technological innovation on society and the world.

What do students do with this knowledge or these skills?

- **Analyse Causes and Consequences:** The curriculum helps students understand the causes and consequences of historical events, such as the impact of the Industrial Revolution (Topic 6), enhancing their ability to think critically about how and why societies change.
- **Analyse Change and Continuity:** By exploring questions such as "Why did the English fight and kill their king?" (Topic 3), students learn to engage with complex historical debates and develop their own reasoned conclusions.
- **Engage with Similarity and Difference:** The study of the Tudor Reformation, the British Empire in the nineteenth century and the Slave Trade encourages students to compare different societies and their experiences, fostering an understanding of both universal and unique aspects of history.
- **Understand Historical Significance:** Students assess the significance of events like the Industrial Revolution and how they transformed social and economic landscapes.
- **Evaluate Primary Sources and Historical Interpretations:** By analysing sources from the British Transatlantic Slave Trade and Crime and Policing in Industrial London, students develop skills in evaluating the reliability and perspective of historical evidence.

How does the Year 8 curriculum align with the History National Curriculum?








- **Covering Key Events and Themes:** The curriculum includes studies of the Tudor Reformation, the English Civil War, and the Industrial Revolution, ensuring students gain knowledge of key events that shaped Britain and the wider world.
- **Promoting Historical Enquiry:** Students engage with questions such as "What was the most significant change brought by the Renaissance?" (Topic 2), encouraging them to explore historical enquiry and analyse evidence.
- **Supporting SMSC Development:** The curriculum explores ethical questions related to the Slave Trade (Topic 5) and the impact of the British Empire, fostering students' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

How does the curriculum align with the Department's Curriculum Intent?

- **Student-Centred Learning and Individual Needs:** The Year 8 curriculum caters to diverse learning needs, providing resources and support to engage all students with history.
- **Lifelong Learning and Preparedness:** The focus on historical enquiry and critical thinking equips students with skills valuable for lifelong learning and understanding of the world.
- **Broad and Balanced Curriculum:** The curriculum covers a range of topics, from religious to economic changes, providing a comprehensive understanding of history.
- **Coherent and Sequential Learning:** The curriculum builds on Year 7, ensuring that learning is coherent and prepares students for more complex historical study in Year 9.
- **Cultural Capital and Learning Beyond the Classroom:** The inclusion of topics such as the British Empire and the Slave Trade enriches students' cultural understanding and appreciation of the historical context of contemporary issues.

What is included in the Year 8 History curriculum?

History lessons are structured as 'stepped enquiries', with a series of well-thought-out sequencing of lessons allowing students to progress in specific areas of historical thinking. KS3 lessons are **two lessons per fortnight**.

Topic	Enquiry Question	Substantive Concepts	Disciplinary Concepts
 Topic 1: The Tudor Reformation	<i>How extreme was the Tudor Reformation on the people of England?</i>	<p>Power and Authority: The role of the monarchy in enforcing religious changes and consolidating power.</p> <p>Ideas, Attitudes, and Beliefs: The impact of Reformation ideas on religious practices and beliefs.</p> <p>Social Structures and Inequalities: The effects of religious changes on different social classes and communities.</p>	<p>Change & Continuity: The extent of religious and social change versus the persistence of traditional practices.</p> <p>Historical Significance: Evaluating the Reformation's long-term impact on English society and religion.</p> <p>Historical Interpretations: Understanding different perspectives on the nature and impact of the Reformation.</p>
 Topic 2: Changes of the Renaissance	<i>What was the most significant change brought by the Renaissance?</i>	<p>Technology, Science, and Innovation: Advancements in art, science, and technology that characterized the Renaissance.</p> <p>Cultural Expression: The flourishing of arts, literature, and humanism during the Renaissance period.</p> <p>Ideas, Attitudes, and Beliefs: The shift towards humanism and secularism, away from medieval scholasticism.</p>	<p>Change & Continuity: Identifying significant changes brought by the Renaissance and what remained the same.</p> <p>Historical Significance: The lasting impact of Renaissance developments on European and global culture.</p>
 Topic 3: The English Civil War	<i>Why did the English fight and kill their king?</i>	<p>Power and Authority: Conflicts between the monarchy, parliament, and other factions over governance.</p> <p>Conflict, Warfare, and Cooperation: The nature of the civil war and the alliances and conflicts it generated.</p> <p>Ideas, Attitudes, and Beliefs: The role of political and religious ideologies in fuelling the conflict.</p>	<p>Cause and Consequence: Exploring the reasons behind the civil war and its outcomes, including the execution of the king.</p> <p>Historical Significance: Assessing the war's impact on the British monarchy and political system.</p>
 Topic 4: The British Empire	<i>What did British colonialism look like in the nineteenth century?</i>	<p>Global Interactions: The extent and nature of British interactions with colonies around the world.</p> <p>Power and Authority: The methods used to establish and maintain colonial control.</p> <p>Economic Systems: The economic motivations behind imperial expansion and its impact on colonies.</p>	<p>Similarity & Difference: Comparing different colonial experiences within the British Empire.</p> <p>Cause and Consequence: Understanding the causes of imperialism and its impact on colonized societies.</p> <p>Historical Interpretations: Diverse perspectives on the nature and effects of British colonialism.</p>
 Topic 5: The Slave Trade	<i>Should Bristol apologise for its slavery roots?</i>	<p>Social Structures and Inequalities: The establishment of racial and social hierarchies through slavery.</p> <p>Economic Systems: The economic role of slavery in the development of British cities like Bristol.</p> <p>Global Interactions: The transatlantic networks and the impact of the slave trade on different continents.</p>	<p>Historical Significance: Evaluating the impact of the slave trade on societies involved.</p> <p>Cause and Consequence: Understanding the reasons for the slave trade and its long-term effects.</p> <p>Primary Sources: firsthand accounts of the slave trade's human impact, revealing experiences of the enslaved and the economic motivations behind the trade.</p> <p>Historical Interpretations: Different perspectives on the legacy of slavery and its relevance today.</p>
 Topic 6A: The Industrial Revolution	<i>Did the Industrial Revolution improve people's lives?</i>	<p>Technology, Science, and Innovation: The technological advancements that drove industrialization.</p> <p>Economic Systems: Changes in production, labour, and economic structures during the Industrial Revolution.</p> <p>Social Structures and Inequalities: The impact of industrialisation on social classes and living conditions.</p>	<p>Change & Continuity: Identifying improvements and problems caused by the Industrial Revolution.</p> <p>Cause and Consequence: The driving factors behind industrialization and its societal impact.</p> <p>Similarity & Difference: Comparing the effects of industrialization in different regions and time periods.</p>
 Topic 6B: Crime and policing in Industrial London	<i>Why were police ineffective in catching Jack the Ripper?</i>	<p>Social Structures and Inequalities: The socio-economic conditions of Victorian London that contributed to crime.</p> <p>Power and Authority: The role and limitations of the police force in maintaining order.</p> <p>Technology, Science, and Innovation: The state of forensic science and investigative methods during the time.</p>	<p>Cause and Consequence: Understanding why crime rates were high and why policing was ineffective.</p> <p>Historical Interpretations: Different theories and perspectives on the failures of the police.</p> <p>Primary Sources: Using contemporary newspaper reports, police records, and eyewitness accounts to examine the effectiveness of policing methods.</p>