

POSSIBLE EDEXCEL GCSE HISTORY QUESTIONS

This list is not definitive. Please do not assume that the questions in the real examination must be the same as those listed here. I have attempted to pull out questions which have very tentative and questionable links to the spec so that hopefully the exam board don't surprise us with a curveball.

Whitechapel

4 mark features questions

- Give two features of housing in Whitechapel.
- Give two features of the workhouses in Whitechapel.
- Give two features of the difficulties of policing Whitechapel.
- Give two features of immigration to Whitechapel.
- Give two features of extreme political beliefs in Whitechapel.
- Give two features of the policing in Whitechapel.
- Give two features of the police's failures to catch Jack the Ripper.
- Give two features of the public reaction to the Ripper murders.

8 mark utility question

[How are the sources useful for an enquiry into...]

- Poverty
- Violent crime
- Policing
- Effectiveness of the police
- Attitudes towards the police
- Immigration
- Extreme political beliefs
- Housing
- Jack the Ripper murders

4 mark follow up question

These generally ask about the same topic used in the utility question as the sources used are the same. Be aware you could be given photographic sources.

Crime and Punishment

4 mark similarities/differences question

- Explain one way in which trials were similar between medieval times and early modern England.
- Explain one way in which policing was different between early modern England and 19th century Britain.
- Explain one way in which prisons were different in 19th century Britain and 20th century Britain.
- Explain one way in which punishments were similar in medieval times and 20th century Britain.
- Explain one way in which the role of communities in law enforcement was similar in medieval times and 20th century Britain.
- Explain one way in which smuggling was similar/different in 18th century Britain and 20th century Britain.
- Explain one way in which the purpose of punishment was different between early modern England and 20th century Britain.

Explain one way in which the role of the Church was similar in Anglo Saxon times and post-Norman Conquest.

Explain one way in which punishments were different in Anglo Saxon times and Norman England.

Explain one way in which the definitions of crime were different between early modern England and 18th century Britain.

12 mark explanation question

Explain how the justice system changed following the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Explain why the Church hindered justice in the early thirteenth century.

Explain why there was an increase in witchcraft accusations during the early modern period.

Explain why the Metropolitan Police was set up.

Explain why the death penalty was abolished.

Explain why the nature of crime had changed by the 20th century.

Explain why the nature of prisons had changed by the 19th century.

Explain how the police force changed within the 20th century.

16 mark agree/disagree question

[statement] How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

'The role of the King was the most important factor in law enforcement by the early 13th century'

'The role of local communities was the most important factor in law enforcement before the Norman Conquest'

'The Church hindered justice in the early thirteenth century'

'The main purpose of punishment in medieval England was deterrence'

'The importance of the king in law enforcement increased in early modern England'

'The English Civil War was the most important reason why witchcraft accusations increased in early modern England'

'The main reason for the increase in highway robbery was the cheaper price of horses'

'The main reason why the Met was set up was the work of Robert Peel'

'The main reason why prisons were reformed was the work of Elizabeth Fry and John Howard'

'Capital punishment was an important part of the penal system from c.1500-c.1900'

'The main reason why the definitions of crime changed in the 20th century was immigration'

'The main reason why the death penalty was abolished in 1965 was because Britain had agreed to the UN Charter of Human Rights'

Cold War

8 mark consequences

Give two consequences of the Tehran/Yalta/Potsdam conference.

Give two consequences of the Manhattan Project.

Give two consequences of the Truman Doctrine.

Give two consequences of the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49.

Give two consequences of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.

Give two consequences of the construction of the Berlin Wall.

Give two consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Give two consequences of the Prague Spring.

Give two consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Give two consequences of Mikhail Gorbachev's 'new thinking'.

Give two consequences of the creation of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

8 mark narrative account

- Write a narrative account of the Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe.
- Write a narrative account of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan.
- Write a narrative account of the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49.
- Write a narrative account of the Hungarian Crisis of 1956.
- Write a narrative account of the Berlin Crisis of 1958-61.
- Write a narrative account of events in Cuba during 1959-62.
- Write a narrative account of the Prague Spring of 1968.
- Write a narrative account of détente from 1962-79.
- Write a narrative account of events in Afghanistan in 1978.
- Write a narrative account of the 'second Cold War'.
- Write a narrative account of the collapse of the USSR and its satellite states.

8 mark importance questions

- Explain how the conferences were important for superpower relations.
- Explain how the development of the atomic bomb was important for the development of the Cold War.
- Explain why the Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe was important for the development of the Cold War.
- Explain why the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan were important for the development of the Cold War.
- Explain why the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49 was important for the development of the Cold War.
- Explain why the formation of NATO was important for superpower relations.
- Explain why the arms race was important for superpower relations.
- Explain why the Soviet invasion of Hungary was important for the development of the Cold War.
- Explain why the Berlin Crisis of 1958-61 was important for superpower relations.
- Explain why the Cuban Missile Crisis was important for the development of the Cold War.
- Explain why the Prague Spring was important for superpower relations.
- Explain how the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was important for superpower relations.
- Explain why the Strategic Defence Initiative was important for the development of the Cold War.
- Explain how Gorbachev's 'new thinking' was important for the end of the Cold War.
- Explain why the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe was important for the end of the Cold War.

Early Elizabethan England

4 mark features question

- Give two features of Elizabethan society and government in 1558.
- Give two features of Elizabeth's problems upon assuming the throne.
- Give two features of the French threat in 1558.
- Give two features of Elizabeth's Religious Settlement of 1559.
- Give two features of the role of the Church of England in society.
- Give two features of the Puritan challenge to Elizabeth.
- Give two features of the Catholic challenge to Elizabeth.
- Give two features of the Northern Rebellion of 1569-70.
- Give two features of the Ridolfi/Throckmorton/Babington Plot.
- Give two features of the work of Francis Walsingham.

Give two features of the commercial rivalry between England and Spain.
Give two features of English involvement in the Netherlands.
Give two features of the role of Robert Dudley in the Netherlands.
Give two features of the activities of Sir Francis Drake.
Give two features of the Spanish Armada.
Give two features of Elizabethan education/sport/pastimes/theatre.
Give two features of the increase in poverty in 1558-88.
Give two features of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe.
Give two features of the colonisation of Virginia.

12 mark explanation question

Explain why Elizabeth faced many problems upon ascending to the throne in 1558.
Explain why Elizabeth's religious settlement helped to solve the problem of religion.
Explain the nature of the Catholic threat to Elizabeth.
Explain why the Northern Rebellion of 1569-70 took place.
Explain why Mary, Queen of Scots was executed in 1587.
Explain why England and Spain were at war by 1585.
Explain why the Spanish Armada failed.
Explain why there was an increase in poverty during Elizabeth's reign.
Explain why there was an increase in exploration.

16 mark agree/disagree question

'The main problem Elizabeth faced upon taking the throne was the threat of foreign invasion'
'The main reason why Elizabeth's religious settlement was a success was because of the Act of Uniformity'
'The Papacy was the biggest Catholic threat to Elizabeth at the start of her reign'
'The main reason for the Revolt of the Northern Earls was to restore Catholicism to England'
'The main reason why Mary, Queen of Scots was executed was the work of Francis Walsingham'
'The main reason why England and Spain went to war was Elizabeth's excommunication'
'The main reason for the failure of the Spanish Armada was Drake's raid on Cadiz'
'The main reason for the increase in poverty was the closure of the monasteries'
'The main reason why exploration increased was new technologies for ships'

Germany

4 mark inferences question

This is dependent on the source given.

12 mark explanation question

Explain why the Weimar Republic was weak.
Explain there was anger in Germany at the Treaty of Versailles.

Explain how Germany's economy was able to recover between 1923-1929.
Explain why the work of Stresemann helped Germany to recover.
Explain why there was a lack of support for the NSDAP during the 'lean years'.
Explain why there was a growth in support for the Nazis in 1929-32.
Explain why Hitler was able to become a dictator.
Explain how Hitler was able to create a police state.
Explain the opposition to Hitler and the Nazis.
Explain how the Nazis controlled the youth.
Explain how the Nazis reduced unemployment between 1933-39.
Explain how the Nazis persecuted the Jews and other minorities.

8 mark utility, 4 mark differences, 4 mark reasons for differences, 20 marker

These all depend on the sources given in the exam.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

Whitechapel

4 mark features questions

Give two features of housing in Whitechapel.

Flower and Dean Street, Peabody Estate

Give two features of the workhouses in Whitechapel.

General Ward, Infirmary

Give two features of the difficulties of policing Whitechapel.

Alcoholism, distrust due to corruption

Give two features of immigration to Whitechapel.

Jews, Irish

Give two features of extreme political beliefs in Whitechapel.

Socialism, anarchism

Give two features of the policing in Whitechapel.

H-division and Superintendent Constable, the beat

Give two features of the police's failures to catch Jack the Ripper.

Removal of graffiti, sending back of bloodhounds early

Give two features of the public reaction to the Ripper murders.

Sensationalist press, anger towards Charles Warren

8 mark utility question

[How are the sources useful for an enquiry into...]

Poverty

Violent crime

Policing

Effectiveness of the police

Attitudes towards the police

Immigration

Extreme political beliefs

Housing

Jack the Ripper murders

4 mark follow up question

These generally ask about the same topic used in the utility question as the sources used are the same. Be aware you could be given photographic sources.

Crime and Punishment

4 mark similarities/differences question

Explain one way in which trials were similar between medieval times and early modern England.

Trial by cold water is similar to witch trials

Explain one way in which policing was different between early modern England and 19th century Britain.

Hue and cry compared to the Met.

Explain one way in which prisons were different in 19th century Britain and 20th century Britain.

Young people began to be separated from the main prison.

Explain one way in which punishments were similar in medieval times and 20th century Britain.

Death penalty was used

Explain one way in which the role of communities in law enforcement was similar in medieval times and 20th century Britain.

Hue and cry is similar to neighbourhood watch

Explain one way in which smuggling was similar/different in 18th century Britain and 20th century Britain.

Similar- done to avoid tariffs // different- new items are smuggled

Explain one way in which the purpose of punishment was different between early modern England and 20th century Britain.

From deterrence to rehabilitation

Explain one way in which the role of the Church was similar in Anglo Saxon times and post-Norman Conquest.

Trial by ordeal

Explain one way in which punishments were different in Anglo Saxon times and Norman England.

Wergild fine changed

Explain one way in which the definitions of crime were different between early modern England and 18th century Britain.

Witchcraft accusations were no longer common

12 mark explanation question

Explain how the justice system changed following the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Royal courts, trial by combat, murdrum fine, forest laws

Explain why the Church hindered justice in the early thirteenth century.

Church courts, benefit of the clergy, trial by ordeal, sanctuary

Explain why there was an increase in witchcraft accusations during the early modern period.

English Civil War led to a breakdown of law, James' book of Daemonology, religious turmoil

Explain why the Metropolitan Police was set up.

New money from taxes, fear of crime, work of Robert Peel

Explain why the death penalty was abolished.

European examples, legacy of the Holocaust, prominent examples, rarely used

Explain why the nature of crime had changed by the 20th century.

Racial crimes, new technologies, newer war crimes

Explain why the nature of prisons had changed by the 19th century.

Elizabeth Fry and John Howard, Gaols Act, changing attitudes

Explain how the police force changed within the 20th century.

New technologies, specialist units set up, more diverse

16 mark agree/disagree question

[statement] How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

'The role of the King was the most important factor in law enforcement by the early 13th century'

Hue and cry (against), wergild gave more power to king, royal courts created

'The role of local communities was the most important factor in law enforcement before the Norman Conquest'

Hue and cry, tithings, trial by ordeal (against)

'The Church hindered justice in the early thirteenth century'

Trial by ordeal, church courts, sanctuary (against)

'The main purpose of punishment in medieval England was deterrence'

Corporal and capital punishment, stocks (humiliate, against), fines (retribution, against)

'The importance of the king in law enforcement increased in early modern England'
New positions created, royal courts increased in power, hue and cry continued (against)
'The English Civil War was the most important reason why witchcraft accusations increased in early modern England'
Religious turmoil, Matthew Hopkins, Daemonology
'The main reason for the increase in highway robbery was the cheaper price of horses'
Better roads, increase in availability of weapons, no police force to chase them
'The main reason why the Met was set up was the work of Robert Peel'
Public attitudes, increased revenue from taxes
'The main reason why prisons were reformed was the work of Elizabeth Fry and John Howard'
Changing purpose of punishment, changing attitudes
'Capital punishment was an important part of the penal system from c.1500-c.1900'
Prisons became more important, decreased in use, fines
'The main reason why the definitions of crime changed in the 20th century was immigration'
New technologies, globalisation
'The main reason why the death penalty was abolished in 1965 was because Britain had agreed to the UN Charter of Human Rights'
Public attitudes, legacy of holocaust, European examples, prominent examples

Cold War

8 mark consequences

Give two consequences of the Tehran/Yalta/Potsdam conference.
Showed cracks in Grand Alliance, failed to reach its goals with Eastern Europe
Give two consequences of the Manhattan Project.
Started the arms race, alienates the USSR as the US and Britain had worked together
Give two consequences of the Truman Doctrine.
Led to the Berlin Blockade to test their resolve, increased risk of conflict
Give two consequences of the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49.
Division of Germany, formation of NATO
Give two consequences of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.
Increased USSR's control of Eastern Europe, showed the US considered it an internal affair
Give two consequences of the construction of the Berlin Wall.
Highlighted the failures of dialogue between superpowers, increased conflict risk (C. Charlie)
Give two consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis.
Started détente, led to the ousting of Khrushchev by the Politburo (unorthodox I know)
Give two consequences of the Prague Spring.
Didn't impact détente, showed that Brezhnev was a hard-line leader
Give two consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
Collapse of Communism, end of the Cold War
Give two consequences of Mikhail Gorbachev's 'new thinking'.
Collapse of Communism, end of the Cold War
Give two consequences of the creation of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).
Showed that the USSR couldn't keep pace, led to second arms race

8 mark narrative account

Write a narrative account of the Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe.
Use specific country examples, e.g. Polish elections

Write a narrative account of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan.

Truman's speech, Greece, 'act of war', Marshall Aid to Europe, 'dollar imperialism'

Write a narrative account of the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49.

Blockade, Operation Plainfare, NATO, ended

Write a narrative account of the Hungarian Crisis of 1956.

Rakosi removed, minor demonstrations, tanks invade then leave, Warsaw Pact comments, re-invade, Nagy replaced permanently with Kadar

Write a narrative account of the Berlin Crisis of 1958-61.

Brain drain, Berlin ultimatum, conferences, Berlin Wall

Write a narrative account of events in Cuba during 1959-62.

Cuban Revolution, Bay of Pigs, Missile Crisis

Write a narrative account of the Prague Spring of 1968.

Student demonstrations, April Programme, Warsaw 5 met, invasion, peaceful resistance

Write a narrative account of détente from 1962-79.

SALT 1, Apollo Soyuz, Yom Kippur, Helsinki, SALT 2, Afghanistan invasion

Write a narrative account of events in Afghanistan in 1978.

Write a narrative account of the 'second Cold War'.

Invasion of Afghanistan, Olympic boycotts, SDI, arms race, collapse of communism

Write a narrative account of the collapse of the USSR and its satellite states.

Use specific declarations of independence, collapse of Berlin Wall, dissolution of USSR

8 mark importance questions

Explain how the conferences were important for superpower relations.

Highlighted differences, led to a deterioration of relations

Explain how the development of the atomic bomb was important for the development of the Cold War.

Alienated USSR, sparked arms race, actually decreased risk of conflict as USSR was too scared to invade

Explain why the Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe was important for the development of the Cold War.

Increased USSR's economic output, provided a buffer zone

Explain why the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan were important for the development of the Cold War.

Increased risk of conflict, gained US lots of allies

Explain why the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49 was important for the development of the Cold War.

Increased risk of conflict, showed permanent split between superpowers

Explain why the formation of NATO was important for superpower relations.

May have been a provocation, formed Warsaw Pact, reduced risk of conflict

Explain why the arms race was important for superpower relations.

MAD, lots of showboating but no risk of conflict

Explain why the Soviet invasion of Hungary was important for the development of the Cold War.

US didn't react, emboldening USSR, strengthened USSR's satellite state control

Explain why the Berlin Crisis of 1958-61 was important for superpower relations.

Forced a split between superpowers, highlighted extent of spying on each other with U2

Explain why the Cuban Missile Crisis was important for the development of the Cold War.

Led to détente, closest world had come to nuclear war

Explain why the Prague Spring was important for superpower relations.

Didn't end détente, warned the US that Brezhnev was more hard-line than Khrushchev

Explain how the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was important for superpower relations.

Led to second cold war, ended détente, brought them into a proxy war

Explain why the Strategic Defence Initiative was important for the development of the Cold War.

Started arms race again, ultimately led to USSR's collapse as they couldn't afford it

Explain how Gorbachev's 'new thinking' was important for the end of the Cold War.

Collapse of communism, dissolution of the USSR

Explain why the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe was important for the end of the Cold War.

Led to a lack of economic output, reduced USSR's protections, forced USSR to be dissolved

Early Elizabethan England

4 mark features question

Give two features of Elizabethan society and government in 1558.

Hierarchical structure, Privy Council

Give two features of Elizabeth's problems upon assuming the throne.

Religion, foreign threats

Give two features of the French threat in 1558.

At war, Auld Alliance

Give two features of Elizabeth's Religious Settlement of 1559.

Act of Uniformity, Act of Supremacy

Give two features of the role of the Church of England in society.

Church courts, visitations

Give two features of the Puritan challenge to Elizabeth.

Crucifixes, vestments

Give two features of the Catholic challenge to Elizabeth.

Papacy, challenges from abroad

Give two features of the Northern Rebellion of 1569-70.

Catholic mass, capture of Hartlepool

Give two features of the Ridolfi/Throckmorton/Babington Plot.

Involvement from abroad, M QoS etc.

Give two features of the work of Francis Walsingham.

Spymaster, Bond of Association

Give two features of the commercial rivalry between England and Spain.

Francis Drake, John Hawkins

Give two features of English involvement in the Netherlands.

Money and weapons, Treaties of Nonsuch

Give two features of the role of Robert Dudley in the Netherlands.

Led English army, Governor General

Give two features of the activities of Sir Francis Drake.

Treasure ships, raid of Cadiz

Give two features of the Spanish Armada.

Gravelines, fireships

Give two features of Elizabethan education/sport/pastimes/theatre.

Dependent on factor

Give two features of the increase in poverty in 1558-88.

Debasement of coinage, closure of monasteries (loads more)

Give two features of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe.

Raided Spanish colonies, was knighted

Give two features of the colonisation of Virginia.

Native resistance, wrong people

12 mark explanation question

Explain why Elizabeth faced many problems upon ascending to the throne in 1558.

Gender, legitimacy, religion, marriage, financial weaknesses etc.

Explain why Elizabeth's religious settlement helped to solve the problem of religion.

Pleased all three major denominations (three paragraphs = three religions)

Explain the nature of the Catholic threat to Elizabeth.

Papacy, nobles, foreign threat

Explain why the Northern Rebellion of 1569-70 took place.

Lack of influence, restore Catholic religion, install Mary, Queen of Scots

Explain why Mary, Queen of Scots was executed in 1587.

Walsingham, Babington Plot, Act for the Surety of the Queen's Person

Explain why England and Spain were at war by 1585.

Commercial rivalry, religious rivalry, political rivalry, the Netherlands

Explain why the Spanish Armada failed.

Cadiz, faster ships, better commanders

Explain why there was an increase in poverty during Elizabeth's reign.

Debasement of coinage, closure of monasteries, enclosure, cloth trade collapsed

Explain why there was an increase in exploration.

Better technology, desire to see the world, economic opportunities

16 mark agree/disagree question

'The main problem Elizabeth faced upon taking the throne was the threat of foreign invasion'

Religion, legitimacy, marriage etc.

'The main reason why Elizabeth's religious settlement was a success was because of the Act of Uniformity'

Act of Supremacy, Royal Injunctions, pleased everyone

'The Papacy was the biggest Catholic threat to Elizabeth at the start of her reign'

Nobles, catholic underground, Foreign threats

'The main reason for the Revolt of the Northern Earls was to restore Catholicism to England'

Personal desire for power, install Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne

'The main reason why Mary, Queen of Scots was executed was the work of Francis Walsingham'

Babington Plot, existential threat, Act for the Surety of the Queen's Person

'The main reason why England and Spain went to war was Elizabeth's excommunication'

Religious tensions, commercial rivalry, problems in the Netherlands

'The main reason for the failure of the Spanish Armada was Drake's raid on Cadiz'

Better English ships, luck and weather, better commanders

'The main reason for the increase in poverty was the closure of the monasteries'

Debasement of the coinage, monasteries, enclosure, collapse of the cloth trade

'The main reason why exploration increased was new technologies for ships'

Desire to see the world, economic opportunities, lots of jobs

Germany

4 mark inferences question

This is dependent on the source given.

12 mark explanation question

Explain why the Weimar Republic was weak.

Veto of the Reichsrat, Article 48, Proportional representation

Explain there was anger in Germany at the Treaty of Versailles.

Territorial terms, military terms, war guilt

Explain how Germany's economy was able to recover between 1923-1929.

New currency, Dawes Plan, Young Plan

Explain why the work of Stresemann helped Germany to recover.

As above

Explain why there was a lack of support for the NSDAP during the 'lean years'.

Good employment levels, good wealth, expansion of leisure and culture

Explain why there was a growth in support for the Nazis in 1929-32.

High unemployment, fear of Communists, propaganda and Hitler's appeal

Explain why Hitler was able to become a dictator.

Enabling Act, Reichstag Fire, Death of Hindenburg and referendum, night of the long knives

Explain how Hitler was able to create a police state.

SA, SS, Gestapo, camps

Explain the opposition to Hitler and the Nazis.

Neimoller, the swing movement, the eidelweiss pirates

Explain how the Nazis controlled the youth.

Schools, hitler youth, turning them against parents

Explain how the Nazis reduced unemployment between 1933-39.

National labour, autobahns, military service, invisible unemployment

Explain how the Nazis persecuted the Jews and other minorities.

Boycotts, gas vans, night of broken glass, lack of rights

8 mark utility, 4 mark differences, 4 mark reasons for differences, 20 marker

These all depend on the sources given in the exam.