



The Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form **History** curriculum aims to help pupils develop key historical knowledge, perspectives and skills which will give them a framework for future understanding and enthuse them to continue to explore the subject within and outside of school. At GCSE level pupils study the [OCR - History B \(Schools History Project\) J411](#) course. The course has 5 units which we study over the course of 3 years at KS4 and has 3 exams at the end of year 11. The GCSE has a thematic study (the People's Health, c.1250 to present), a British depth study (The Elizabethans, 1580–1603), the study of a site in its historical context (Framlingham Castle, a period study (The Making of America, 1789–1900) and a world depth study (Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945).

There are times throughout the course where we go into more depth on a topic or explore related examples because we feel it gives pupils a broader and richer understanding of History. This benefits them in both achieving their GCSE but also their all-round appreciation of History.

Year 11

Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	The Making of America, 1789–1900 Unit 5 – American cultures 1877–1900 People's Health – revision Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945	Knowledge: In Year 11, pupils have three history lessons per week, consisting of one double period and one single period. During the single lesson, pupils will complete their study of 'The Making of America' and then recap the entire topic to consolidate their understanding. Following this, they will revisit the 'People's Health' topic from Year 9 as part of their revision programme. In the double period, pupils will begin their final topic: 'Living Under Nazi Rule'. This unit helps pupils understand the impact of the Nazi dictatorship on everyday life, both within Germany and across occupied Europe. It explores the complex interplay of political, economic, social, racial, and cultural forces that shaped these societies under Nazi control.	BBC bitesize – Living Under Nazi Rule – Hitler's rise into power, 1929-1934 - OCR B - BBC Bitesize BBC bitesize – Living Under Nazi Rule – The Police State - Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939 - OCR B - BBC Bitesize GCSE History podcasts - Germany in the 20th century - BBC Bitesize <u>Additional Resources</u> Textbooks



	Unit 1 – Democracy to Dictatorship Unit 2 – Control and Opposition, 1933– 1939 Unit 3 – Changing Lives, 1933–1939	Skills: Pupils continue to acquire new knowledge and apply it to historical enquiry questions. The 'Living Under Nazi Rule' course places a strong emphasis on source analysis. Pupils will learn to critically evaluate primary sources by considering their content, origin, purpose, and reliability. They will also assess how these sources reflect the lived experiences of people under Nazi rule and how propaganda was used to shape public opinion. In addition, this topic challenges pupils to engage with the moral and ethical dimensions of history, particularly in relation to persecution, resistance, and the choices individuals and groups made under dictatorship.	<u>OCR GCSE History SHP: The Making of America 1789-1900</u> by Alex Ford <u>OCR GCSE History SHP: Living under Nazi Rule 1933-1945</u> by Richard Kennett Revision Guide <u>TMHS History Department Revision Guide</u> – All pupils have a hardcopy and access to an electronic copy.
Assessments	As part of their Year 11 November assessments in History, students will sit an exam on the topic 'The Making of America': Year 11 November Assessment: 'Making of America' end of topic exam. [40 marks] Throughout the term, students will regularly practise answering exam-style questions related to the 'Living Under Nazi Rule' topic during their double lessons. These questions will often be set as homework to reinforce learning and develop exam skills. Below are examples of the types of questions they are most likely to encounter: Assessed Task 1: What can Source A tell us about Gleichschaltung? Use the source and your own knowledge to support your answer. [7 marks] Assessed Task 2: Hitler's transformation from Chancellor to Dictator was smooth and without incident. How far do you agree with this view? [18 marks] Assessed Task 3: What can source A tell us about opposition to the Nazis within Germany? [7 marks]		



		Assessed Task 4: How useful are Interpretation B and sources C and D for a historian studying the persecution of Jews between 1933-1939? In your answer, refer to the Interpretation and the two sources as well as your own knowledge. [15 marks]	
2	Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945 Unit 4 – Germany in War and Unit 5 – Occupation People's Health – revision Elizabethans – revision	Knowledge: This term, pupils will complete their study of 'Living Under Nazi Rule' during their double lessons. The final two units focus on the impact of the Second World War on life in Nazi Germany and across occupied Europe, examining how the war intensified the effects of Nazi policies and shaped the experiences of different groups. In their single lessons, pupils will continue their revision programme. They will complete their review of the 'People's Health' topic and begin revising 'The Elizabethans', reinforcing their understanding in preparation for final assessments. Skills: There is a continued emphasis on source analysis skills as pupils complete the 'Living Under Nazi Rule' topic. They further develop their ability to evaluate sources critically, considering content, origin, purpose, and reliability. Alongside this, pupils receive targeted guidance on effective revision strategies, particularly tailored to the demands of studying History, helping them prepare confidently for their final assessments.	BBC bitesize – Living Under Nazi Rule – The outbreak of WW2 and its impact - OCR B - BBC Bitesize GCSE History podcasts - Germany in the 20th century - BBC Bitesize <u>Additional Resources</u> Textbooks <u>OCR GCSE History SHP: Living under Nazi Rule 1933-1945</u> by Richard Kennett Revision Guide <u>TMHS History Department Revision Guide</u> – All pupils have a hardcopy and access to an electronic copy.
Assessments		At the beginning of this term, students will take mock examinations in all subjects. For History, they will sit two exam papers, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes, covering two of the five topics studied:	



		Mock Exam: 2 papers – British paper including People’s Health and Elizabethans and World History paper including Making of America and Living Under Nazi Rule. [160 marks in total] Following the completion of the mock examinations, students will continue to develop their exam skills throughout the remainder of the term. During their double History lessons, they will regularly practise answering exam-style questions for the ‘Living Under Nazi Rule’ topic, with many tasks set as homework. Below are examples of the types of questions they are likely to encounter: Assessed Task 1: ‘The German people supported the war between 1939 and 1945.’ How far do you agree with this view? [18 marks] Assessed Task 2: “The most common response to Nazi occupation was collaboration.” How far do you agree with this view of Nazi rule in Europe between 1939 and 1945? [18 marks]	
3	History Around Us Revision Final Revision and GCSE Exams	Knowledge: In the lead-up to the final exams, pupils will focus on revising all topics, working through example answers and past papers to build confidence in tackling exam questions and applying their knowledge effectively. Particular emphasis will be placed on the ‘History Around Us’ topic, ensuring pupils are well-prepared for this unique component of the course. Pupils will be guided in using a variety of revision materials, including revision guides, online platforms such as Quizlet, and tailored information sheets, helping them to revise independently and strategically. Skills: Exam technique will be a key focus in the final stages of preparation, with particular attention given to timing, structure, and clarity of responses. Pupils will work on	GCSE History podcasts - Exam Skills - BBC Bitesize <u>Additional Resources</u> Revision Guide <u>TMHS History Department Revision Guide</u> – All pupils have a hardcopy and access to an electronic copy. Quizlet Pupils have access to resources on ‘Quizlet’ to use within their revision.



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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: HISTORY

		justifying and supporting their arguments effectively, as well as refining their skills in analysing sources and interpretations. These strategies will help ensure they approach each question with confidence and precision.	
Assessment		There are at least 2 assessment tasks, but these are selected based on the pupil's prior attainment, mastery of topic knowledge and skills.	