

# Nationals History: Guide for Parents and Carers



September 2018



This information sheet is to assist parents & carers in supporting young people with the Nationals History course for Session 2018/19.

## Nationals History Course Information

Nationals History candidates attend classes for four periods per week. Pupils study three units throughout the year:

- Hitler and Nazi Germany 1918-1939
- Era of the Great War 1900-1928
- Atlantic Slave Trade 1770-1807

National 5 pupils are assessed by two components:

- An exam paper worth 80 marks (2 hrs 20 mins)
- An assignment worth 20 marks (1 hr)

The History SQA Exams will take place on:

**Monday 13th May 2019**

National 4 pupils do not sit an external exam. Instead they will sit a unit assessment for each of the three units studied, and also complete a research project.

## Monitoring progress

For N5 pupils, unit Assessments have been removed which means that candidates' progress will be assessed in a number of ways including:

- Prelim exam
- Class tests
- Knowledge tests
- Homework questions

The exam questions in particular will determine a candidate's ability to cope with the demands of the final exam.

Specific pupil assessment dates will be given by class teachers however should roughly follow the schedule below:

Aug	Exam question work	Jan	Prelim
Sep	Exam question work	Feb	Assignment
Oct	Nazis test	Mar	Slave trade test
Nov	Exam question work	Apr	Exam question work
Dec	Great War test		

## Homework, Supported Study and Revision

All candidates studying Nationals History will have tasks they should be working on at home. The majority of homework will take the form of completing example exam questions. These will be issued by class teachers and details posted on Show My Homework. It is very important that pupils adhere to all deadlines set by class teachers.

Supported Study is offered by the department as part of the whole school programme. Details of Supported Study sessions will be issued to parents by the school. In addition to this, some class teachers may offer further supported study sessions at other times. Additional support for any pupil who requires it can be arranged with individual class teachers.

As well as set pieces of homework which require a submission to teachers, pupils must carry out regular revision at home. The pace of the Nationals History course requires pupils to engage in consolidation work at home therefore there is an expectation that every pupil is spending at least one hour per week revising (and more as exams approach). This could take many forms including:

- Reading over class notes/ materials from Blogs
- Creating mind maps/ spider diagrams/ flash cards of classwork
- Completing Past Papers
- Working with a peer to create questions & answers on a key topic

**Pupils should not be listening to music, using mobile phones or watching television while revision activities are carried out.** This could impact on the effectiveness of revision activities.

Any past paper questions completed at home may be submitted to class teachers for feedback and marking.

## The Assignment

All National 5 History candidates must produce an extended essay on a topic of their choice. This is worth 20 marks and must be produced with minimal support from class teachers.

This will require a considerable amount of a candidate's own time in order to:

- Carry out required reading/ research and identify suitable historical sources
- Plan the essay (including creating a 200 word resource sheet)
- Learn and practice the essay

Pupils will be working on this from January 2019. The final assignment will be written up under exam conditions and pupils have one hour to do this.

## Useful Resources

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjoacnationalhistory/> (Miss Quigley's Blog)
- <https://mrmarrhistory.wordpress.com/> (Mr Marr's Website)
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm> (all SQA Past Papers)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z2phvcw> (BBC Bitesize N5 History—Revision)



@stjoacss (Social Subjects Department Twitter)  
@mrmarrhistory (Mr Marr's Twitter page)

### **Other out of school activities which will benefit Nationals History pupils include:**

- \* Watching history films/ documentaries
- \* Reading
- \* Visiting local library for reading/ research
- \* Watching news/ reading newspapers