

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

History 0470

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2027 and 2028

Understanding the whole syllabus

History connects knowledge of events with explanations of why they happened and why they mattered. Sources and interpretations provide evidence, but they must be understood in context. The syllabus separates broad developments from deeper study, and the selected options determine the material you need to know.

For History 0470, the content map below follows the approved subject briefing and the official syllabus. Labels group related areas for orientation; the detailed syllabus remains the authority for individual learning requirements.

Content map

Syllabus area or component	What the area covers
Choice of core content	All candidates select one of two core options.
Option A: Nineteenth-century history	Option A investigates the development of modern nation-states between 1848 and 1914. It includes the revolutions of 1848, Italian and German unification, the American Civil War, imperial expansion and the causes of the First World War.
Option B: International relations from 1919	Option B examines international relations from 1919, including the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, the outbreak of the Second World War, the origins of the Cold War, American containment of communism and Soviet control of Eastern Europe.
Depth-study choices	You also study at least one depth study: the First World War; Germany between 1918 and 1945; Russia between 1905 and 1941; the United States between 1919 and 1941; or the Second World War in Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

These areas should be read as a connected course. Begin with the foundational knowledge identified in the first part of the map, then build towards the applications and explanations that depend on it. Build a secure chronology for the selected options, then connect events through causation, change and significance. Revisit source and essay skills alongside content rather than treating them as separate last-minute revision. Where a row describes a choice of topics or components, study the selection required by your agreed route rather than treating all alternatives as compulsory.

Qualification and component choices

Route	Required components
Coursework route	Papers 1 and 2, plus Component 3
Written alternative route	Papers 1 and 2, plus Paper 4

These are alternatives for the third component. Coursework requires the centre's supervision, assessment and submission arrangements. The written alternative still requires the skills described for that paper.

Choose one core-content option and the required depth study with your centre. The Paper 2 prescribed source topic changes by examination series. Private candidates use an available examination route through a centre; coursework must not be assumed available to them.

The assessed skills

Assessment objectives describe the abilities Cambridge looks for across the qualification. The following explanations paraphrase the syllabus objectives; they are not additional topics or separate orientation tasks.

Assessment objective	Meaning for the learner
AO1: Historical knowledge	Select and organise accurate knowledge that addresses the question.
AO2: Historical explanation	Explain causes, consequences, change and continuity, and the actions of people in context.
AO3: Source evidence	Interpret, evaluate and use sources in their historical setting.

These abilities work together in an answer. Accurate knowledge supports application, while a clear explanation shows how the evidence or method leads to a conclusion. The balance varies by component, so the next lesson connects these abilities with the actual assessment formats.

Key pointers: Follow the stated examination-year syllabus, cover the required areas for your route and develop skills alongside knowledge. **Next:** Open **Assessment Overview**.