

# HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher History

HISTORY  
SOCIAL STUDIES

CfE  
HIGHER

3  
UNITS

SCOTTISH HISTORY  
BRITISH HISTORY  
EUROPEAN AND WORLD HISTORY

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER



## Skills

Learners will be able to:

- develop a conceptual understanding of the past and an ability to think independently
- apply a detailed historical perspective in a range of contexts
- analyse various interpretations of historical sources and critically evaluate a variety of views
- understand the relationship between factors contributing to, and the impact of, historical events
- analyse, evaluate and synthesise historical information
- research complex historical issues, drawing well-reasoned conclusions



## Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- develop a coherent and balanced understanding of Scottish, British, European and world history
- develop thinking skills
- develop skills in literacy through using and synthesising information in a variety of ways
- research and investigate themes and events
- synthesise information from a wide range of sources to produce detailed and reasoned lines of argument



## Assessment

- To gain Higher History, learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 90 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (30 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 60 marks) which is in three sections (see below). These are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher History is graded from A to D or as No Award



**Question Paper** Section 1 Scottish - source handling (20 marks)  
Section 2 British - extended response questions (20 marks)  
Section 3 European and World - extended response questions (20 marks)

2 hours 20 minutes  
60 marks

**Specimen Paper** [www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/HistorySQPH.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/HistorySQPH.pdf)

**Assignment** The Assignment will assess skills. Learners will research an appropriate historical issue or question of their own choice and write it up as a report, under timed conditions.

30 marks



**Progression** Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher History: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47923.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47923.html)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)

Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills,

progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

[www.parentforumscotland.org](http://www.parentforumscotland.org)



the National Parent  
Forum of Scotland

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