Key Stage 3 History – Learning Path Criteria

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
EXCEPTIONAL GCSE 8-9 (A*)	 Provides a clear argument supported by well-chosen evidence; final conclusion is balanced and may well use priority/judgement and justification. Displays some in depth knowledge that analyses and evaluates information to reach a supported conclusion. Able to test the validity of many sources and reach a supported conclusion. Can make judgements on some different historical interpretations; able to justify a conclusion. Very good presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Provides an effective argument supported by well-chosen evidence; final conclusion is balanced and uses priority/judgement and justification which starts to be substantiated Displays in depth knowledge that analyses and evaluates information to reach a justified conclusion. Able to test the validity of sources and reach a supported conclusion. Makes judgements on different historical interpretations; able to justify a conclusion, which may start to be substantiated. Accurate presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Provide an effective, continuously sustained argument supported by excellent supporting evidence; final conclusion is judicious and uses priority/judgement and justification to reach a substantiated judgement. Displays considerable in depth knowledge that appraises and evaluates information, consistently using sustained analysis to reach a justified conclusion. Able to test the validity of sources and reach sustained judgments leading towards a well-supported conclusion. Makes judgements on different historical interpretations; able to justify a balanced, sustained and substantiated conclusion. Very accurate presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar.
PROFICIENT GCSE 6-7 (A-B)	 Structures a clear argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are confidently reached. Generally good analysis of reasons for change drawing upon an increasingly wide knowledge base. Able to use inference in analysing some sources; able to justify personal views. Able to explain some different historical interpretations; can interpret some different views when writing about the past. Good spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Structures an effective argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are confidently reached. Generally good analysis of reasons for change drawing upon a fairly wide knowledge base. Able to use inference in analysing some sources; able to justify some personal interpretation. Able to fully explain different historical interpretations; can interpret a number of different views when writing about the past. Good presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Structures a detailed and effective argument using highly relevant evidence; sections of analysis may appear throughout extended written tasks, not just in the conclusion which may be partially substantiated. Sustained analysis of reasons for change drawing upon an increasingly wide range of knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing sources; able to justify some personal interpretation. Able to confidently explain different historical interpretations; can use a number of different views in a historically valid way. Accurate presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar.
CORE GCSE 4-5 (B-C)	 Structure a general argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are mostly reached. Understanding of reasons for change, drawing upon some increasing historical knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing some sources; able to justify own view. Able to summarise and starts to explain some different views of past events. Satisfactory spelling, punctuation and grammar with some errors. 	 Structure a general argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are nearly always reached. Understanding of reasons for change, drawing upon a range of knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing sources; able to justify own opinion. Able to summarise and explain different historical viewpoints; can understand a number of different views. Satisfactory presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar with some errors. 	 Structures a reasoned argument using relevant evidence; uses conclusions other than at the end of extended writing. Starts to be more consistently analytical when explaining reasons for change drawing upon a range of knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing sources; able to justify some personal interpretation. Able to summarise different historical interpretations; can understand a number of different views. Good presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar.
FOUNDATION GCSE 1-3 (D-G)	 Some use of description, supported by some evidence with a degree of structure to the writing. Ability to describe some outcomes/results/effects. Able to show understanding of either reliability or utility of some sources. Able to understand why some events/actions can have different interpretations. Spelling, punctuation and grammar contains many errors 	 Increasing use of explanation to make arguments, supported by relevant evidence with some degree of structure to the writing. Ability to partially explain outcomes/results/effects. Able to show some understanding of both reliability and utility of some sources. Able to understand why events/actions can have different interpretations. Spelling, punctuation and grammar contains many errors. 	 Increasing use of explanation to make arguments, supported by relevant evidence in a structured 'vehicle'. Starts to show analysis and be able to explain outcomes/results/effects. Able to show understanding of both reliability and utility of sources. Understands why events/actions can have different interpretations. Satisfactory presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar with some errors.

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EXCEPTIONAL GCSE 8-9 (A*)	 Provides a clear argument supported by well-chosen evidence; final conclusion is balanced and may well use priority/judgement and justification. Displays some in depth knowledge that analyses and evaluates information to reach a supported conclusion. Able to test the validity of many sources and reach a supported conclusion. Can make judgements on some different historical interpretations; able to justify a conclusion. Very good presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Provides an effective argument supported by well-chosen evidence; final conclusion is balanced and uses priority/judgement and justification which starts to be substantiated Displays in depth knowledge that analyses and evaluates information to reach a justified conclusion. Able to test the validity of sources and reach a supported conclusion. Makes judgements on different historical interpretations; able to justify a conclusion, which may start to be substantiated. Accurate presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Provide an effective, continuously sustained argument supported by excellent supporting evidence; final conclusion is judicious and uses priority/judgement and justification to reach a substantiated judgement. Displays considerable in depth knowledge that appraises and evaluates information, consistently using sustained analysis to reach a justified conclusion. Able to test the validity of sources and reach sustained judgments leading towards a well-supported conclusion. Makes judgements on different historical interpretations; able to justify a balanced, sustained and substantiated conclusion. Very accurate presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar.
PROFICIENT GCSE 6-7 (A-B)	 Structures a clear argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are confidently reached. Generally good analysis of reasons for change drawing upon an increasingly wide knowledge base. Able to use inference in analysing some sources; able to justify personal views. Able to explain some different historical interpretations; can interpret some different views when writing about the past. Good spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Structures an effective argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are confidently reached. Generally good analysis of reasons for change drawing upon a fairly wide knowledge base. Able to use inference in analysing some sources; able to justify some personal interpretation. Able to fully explain different historical interpretations; can interpret a number of different views when writing about the past. Good presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Structures a detailed and effective argument using highly relevant evidence; sections of analysis may appear throughout extended written tasks, not just in the conclusion which may be partially substantiated. Sustained analysis of reasons for change drawing upon an increasingly wide range of knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing sources; able to justify some personal interpretation. Able to confidently explain different historical interpretations; can use a number of different views in a historically valid way. Accurate presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar.
CORE GCSE 4-5 (B-C)	 Structure a general argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are mostly reached. Understanding of reasons for change, drawing upon some increasing historical knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing some sources; able to justify own view. Able to summarise and starts to explain some different views of past events. Satisfactory spelling, punctuation and grammar with some errors. 	 Structure a general argument using relevant evidence; conclusions are nearly always reached. Understanding of reasons for change, drawing upon a range of knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing sources; able to justify own opinion. Able to summarise and explain different historical viewpoints; can understand a number of different views. Satisfactory presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar with some errors. 	 Structures a reasoned argument using relevant evidence; uses conclusions other than at the end of extended writing. Starts to be more consistently analytical when explaining reasons for change drawing upon a range of knowledge. Able to use inference in analysing sources; able to justify some personal interpretation. Able to summarise different historical interpretations; can understand a number of different views. Good presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar.
FOUNDATION GCSE 1-3 (D-G)	 Some use of description, supported by some evidence with a degree of structure to the writing. Ability to describe some outcomes/results/effects. Able to show understanding of either reliability or utility of some sources. Able to understand why some events/actions can have different interpretations. Spelling, punctuation and grammar contains many errors 	 Increasing use of explanation to make arguments, supported by relevant evidence with some degree of structure to the writing. Ability to partially explain outcomes/results/effects. Able to show some understanding of both reliability and utility of some sources. Able to understand why events/actions can have different interpretations. Spelling, punctuation and grammar contains many errors. 	 Increasing use of explanation to make arguments, supported by relevant evidence in a structured 'vehicle'. Starts to show analysis and be able to explain outcomes/results/effects. Able to show understanding of both reliability and utility of sources. Understands why events/actions can have different interpretations. Satisfactory presentation and spelling, punctuation and grammar with some errors.