



Ofqual

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Guidance

# Grade descriptors for GCSEs graded 9 to 1: history

Updated 15 July 2016

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# 1.

## Grade 8

**1.1 To achieve Grade 8 candidates will be able to:**

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- demonstrate relevant and comprehensive knowledge, using first order concepts, combined with a sophisticated understanding of key features and characteristics
- construct a convincing line of reasoning using second order concepts
- critically analyse and evaluate, to reach reasoned, substantiated judgements:
  - a range of sources, in context, to investigate historical issues
  - interpretations and why they may differ

## 2.

### Grade 5

#### 2.1 To achieve Grade 5 candidates will be able to:

- demonstrate mostly accurate and appropriate historical knowledge, using first order concepts, combined with a clear understanding of key features and characteristics
- construct a coherent line of reasoning using second order concepts
- analyse and provide some evaluation, to reach reasoned judgements, of:
  - a range of sources, in context, to investigate historical issues
  - interpretations and why they may differ

## 3.

### Grade 2

#### 3.1 To achieve Grade 2 candidates will be able to:

- Demonstrate generalised historical knowledge, using everyday language,

and basic understanding of key features and characteristics

- Construct a basic line of reasoning with some reference to second order concepts
- Comprehend, to draw simple conclusions:
  - sources to provide some investigation of historical issues
  - interpretations to identify similarities and differences

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