



Historical Association  
The voice for history

# Curriculum Review

## Key takeaways for National Curriculum History

Our key message is: **don't rush** and **don't panic**. The revised National Curriculum won't be taught until 2027 or become statutory until 2028, so there is plenty of time to engage with the changes. The emphasis is on adjustment, reflecting evolution rather than revolution. Below outlines the key focus areas for history.

### Key implications taken directly from the government response to CAR

#### A robust understanding of British history

*"...a robust understanding of our nation's history, and we will continue to include it, and strengthen it, in the national curriculum and the subject content of qualifications. We will ensure that teachers can reflect the innate diversity of British history, including British Black and Asian history."*

#### A robust understanding of wider-world societies in the past

*"...Britain's past and our connections to the wider world, as well as develop knowledge about other civilisations and people in and of themselves."*

#### Clarity on optionality and flexibility

*"We will be clearer about which content in the programme of study is non-statutory to provide more clarity for teachers on flexibility and optionality. Teaching the Holocaust at KS3 remains statutory."*

#### A knowledge rich approach that emphasises the importance of disciplinary knowledge

*"We will improve the programme of study to support pupils to critically appraise historical sources and develop strong substantive and disciplinary knowledge."*

#### Disciplinary Knowledge

*"We agree with the Review on the importance of applying disciplinary knowledge, skills and approaches, including how the past is studied and how historical claims are constructed."*

#### Local History

*"...how local history and contexts can be studied to teach history through where children and young people live."*

#### Critical Analysis

*"We will... strengthen the critical understanding of evidence and sources inherent in history through the refreshed programme of study."*

### HA Support

We provide a wide range of **podcasts, films, resources** and **webinars** covering a variety of topics, periods, people, events and issues that reflect and help to explain the innate diversity of British history and support teachers to teach it.

We provide a wide range of **podcasts, films, resources** and **webinars** covering diverse places, societies, periods, people and events to explain Britain's place in world history as well as the place of other civilisations and cultures.

The National Curriculum provides a great deal of optionality and flexibility which allows teachers to be creative in their curriculum design and choices. HA **journals** and **CPD** support teachers to develop this.

We offer **journals, resources** and **CPD** which often focus on historical **sources and evidence** as well as upon weaving of substantive and disciplinary knowledge for both **primary** and secondary members.

The HA's **What's the Wisdom On...** series explores how disciplinary thinking has developed over the last 30 years, alongside a **disciplinary knowledge section** with **guides** and **webinars** for primary teachers.

Founded by the HA, **Local History Month**, alongside our **Great Debate** and **Talking History** competitions, champions local history, supported by **primary** and **secondary** resources on its development.

We offer **journals, resources** and **CPD** which focus on **sources and evidence** as well as **using historical sources** in the classroom.



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# Curriculum Review Timelines

Below is an at-a-glance timeline of the anticipated changes. GCSE and A-level changes will also be subject to review and consultation but at present there is no further information about this.

