

**AS Level History (25% of AS)**  
**Edexcel Unit 1**  
**D4: Stalin's Russia, 1924-53**

**Outline**

The focus of this topic is on the most dramatic and traumatic years of Soviet history under the leadership of Joseph Stalin. From his rise to power after the Russian Revolution and the death of Lenin, to his ruthless and bloody later years as the undisputed dictator of the Soviet Union, Stalin's rule fascinates and appals in equal measure. We will be looking beyond the myth and uncovering the man and his legacy based on a wide range of source, many of which were top secret until the collapse of the Soviet Union and the opening of the state records.

**When?**

September to December 2013. We will finish the course by Christmas. There will be a mock exam in January 2013, and the actual exam will be in May or June 2014.

**What will you be learning?**

The course is broken down into 4 main sections:

- The struggle for power — the making of the new vozhd 1924-29: personalities and policies.
- Transforming the Soviet Union: the collectivisation of agriculture and its social and economic impact; industrialisation and its economic and social impact; the three five-year plans; changing social policies.
- Persecution and control: the origins and course of the purges; culture and the arts in the service of a totalitarian regime.
- The making of a superpower: the Great Patriotic War; devastation; war production; victory.

The first section chronicles Stalin's early assertion of power after Lenin's death, while the second section leads you through the adoption of policies that changed the face of Russia completely. The third section deals with how Stalin ruthlessly maintained his authority against challenges both real and imagined, while the last section focuses on the Soviet Union during the war years and immediately after.

**Where can you find out more?**

For more information about the content of the course visit the exam board's site at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/history/Pages/default.aspx>

**How will you be assessed?**

You will be assessed through a 1hr 20 minute exam.

You will answer two essay questions during that time – each worth 30 marks.

- One question will be about U.S. Civil Rights (studied with Mr McGhee)
- One question will be about Stalin's Russia (studied with Mr Paterson)

You will have a choice of two questions to answer for each topic (U.S. and Russia).