

Year 12 Early Modern History with Mrs Carr: What are we actually going to do?

We are studying Unit Y205 of OCR A-level History: **Exploration, Encounters and Empire 1445-1570**. This unit explores the relationship between Europe and the wider world in the 15th and 16th centuries, including the reasons why Europeans began to explore and expand, the nature and impact of the encounters between Europeans and indigenous peoples in Africa, Asia and the Americas, and the consequences of overseas empire for European politics, economies, society and culture.

Exploration (interpretations topic for AS)

- Reasons why this was an age of exploration: Renaissance learning and values, trade, religion, technological change, Ottoman expansion, geography of and internal developments in Portugal and Spain;
- Motives and contributions of individual explorers: Diaz, da Gama, Vespucci, Columbus, Magellan, Balboa, Cabral, Cortes, Pizarro;
- Routes of exploration, difficulties faced.

Encounters and conquest (interpretations topic for AS)

- The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) between Spain and Portugal;
- Encounters by Portugal: Atlantic and Americas, Africa, Asia;
- Encounters by Spain: the Caribbean, the Americas;
- Portuguese conquest: Albuquerque, Brazil;
- Spanish conquest: the Caribbean, Mexico (Moctezuma II), Panama and Peru (Atahualpa);
- Difficulties faced in encounters and conquests; reasons for success; gains and losses for individual explorers and their patrons.

Settlement and consequences

- Portuguese forts, staging and trading posts: Africa, India and the Far East; settlement of Brazil;
- Spanish settlement of the Caribbean, Mexico, Panama and Peru;
- Central and local administrative systems by Spain and Portugal;
- Consequences of Portuguese conquests and settlements for indigenous peoples: military, economic, social, religious.

Impact of overseas empire on Europe

- Political, religious, social, economic and financial consequences for Portugal, Spain and Europe;
- European balance of power;
- Bullion; the slave trade;
- Balance sheet of personal and national benefits and losses.

How will I be examined?

<p>At AS the exam is 1 hour 30 mins. You answer:</p> <p>1 essay question worth 30 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the reasons for... • '_____.' How far do you agree? • How far... • To what extent... • How successful/serious/important... <p>1 question about an interpretation worth 20 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A historian's opinion will be quoted and you will be asked to evaluate the strengths and limitations of the interpretation, comparing it to other interpretations you have studied. • You will only be asked about interpretations on two of the four topic areas. 	<p>At A-level, the exam is 1 hour long. You answer:</p> <p>1 short question worth 10 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are asked to compare the role and importance of two factors <p>1 essay question worth 20 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the reasons for... • '_____.' How far do you agree? • How far... • To what extent... • How successful/serious/important... <p>At A-level you answer interpretations questions on your Unit 3 topic so you do not have to do them on this unit.</p>
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And finally...

<p>I will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Try to make lessons interesting, accessible and challenging ✓ Provide or guide you to resources ✓ Be on time for lessons ✓ Set homework that is useful ✓ Explain, and explain again, in different ways, if necessary ✓ Not mind if people don't understand; but mind if people don't ask questions when they're stuck, or don't do their work, or don't know things they should ✓ Encourage opinions and debate ✓ Help create a supportive and positive atmosphere so we all enjoy ourselves, learn lots and do well 	<p>You will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be on time to lessons ✓ Do your homework on time, every time ✓ Take responsibility, complete the 5Rs, and ask if you don't understand ✓ Contribute to class debate ✓ Help create a supportive and positive atmosphere so we all enjoy ourselves, learn lots and do well
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