

A LEVEL
Expanded Specification

HISTORY A

H505
For first teaching in 2015

**Theme: Genghis Khan
and the Explosion from
the Steppes c.1167-1405**

Version 2



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INTRODUCTION

This resource has been produced to give you more information on the new specification; expanding on the content of the draft specification to give you more clarity on what content might be considered in your teaching. This is not a definitive list but does expand on the specification content in order to exemplify in more detail the history that could be taught for each key topic. Please note that the specification should be referred to in order to ensure that you cover the required content.



Key Topic	Indicative Content	Extended Content
<p>Genghis Khan and the Creation of the Mongol Empire c.1167-1264.</p>	<p>Rise of Genghis and impact on the nomadic Steppe tribes ; military tactics, aims, organisation, leadership; reasons for successful expansion from Genghis to Mongke; strengths and weaknesses of Mongol rule; Karakorum; defeat of the Khwarazmians, Jin, and Abbasids; invasions in Europe, Central Asia, India, the Levant; role of Subedei, Batu, Hulegu, Khubilai and Berke; civil war and disunity by 1264.</p>	<p>Why and how Genghis Khan rose to power: geography, climate, nature of the nomadic tribes, early life of Temujin, concepts of anda and nokor, relations with the Uigurs, Jamuka, the kuriltai of 1206, campaigns against the Merkits, Naimans, Khitans, Xia (Tanguts),Tartars.</p> <p>Military organisation and tactics: ordu, decimal system, keshig (imperial guard), training, use of couriers and signals, the mangudei and feint, light cavalry, techniques of the nomadic hunt, extensive battle lines and logistical planning, gradual adoption of foreign technology (trebuchet, siege machines, gunpowder)</p> <p>The impact of Genghis' campaigns in northern China, Central Asia and India: siege of Chung-tu, Bukhara, Samarkand, Battle of the Kalka, Gurganj, Merv, Nishapur, Herat, barbarism and psychological warfare, the skill of Subedei</p> <p>The significance of Genghis Khan in terms of military leadership as well as statesmanship: his death and secret burial, plans for succession, impact on Mongol rule, his legacy and the Secret History.</p> <p>Mongol administration and practices: division of ulus, provincial officials (darugachi), kuriltai, appanage and vassal states, use of foreign administrators such as Tatatonga and Yeh-lu Chu'ts'ai, adoption of the Uigur script, religious tolerance and Shamanism, the Yassa and yarlik, taxation, slavery, support for artisans and merchants, postal stations (yam), paiza, the ortogh, use of foreign soldiers, building and development of new cities such as Karakorum and Sarai, Mongke's reforms and census.</p> <p>How Mongol expansion and campaigns developed from 1227 onwards and why they were successful: traditional military strategy and changing methods of warfare, impact of invasions on Christians and Muslims, fear and submission, response to uprisings and use of vassals such as Alexander Nevsky, interaction with crusaders and communication with Louis IX of France.</p> <p>Key battles and areas: fall of Kaifeng; occupation of Korea, Georgia and Armenia; capture of Isfahan; campaigns against the Bulgars and subjugation of the Kipchaks (Cumans); destruction of Riazin, Suzdal, Vladimir and Kiev; fall of Sandomir, Krakow, Wroclaw and the Battle of Leignitz (Legnica); the Sajo river, Plain of Mohi and Pest; defeat of the Ismaili (Assassins) and Alamut; fall of Baghdad; submission of the Christian states of Antioch and Tripoli, and the Seljuks of Rum; siege of Mayafariqin; defeat at Ayn-Jalut, fall of Acre and the Mamluk riposte.</p> <p>How far the Great Khans and military leaders affected Mongol expansion: significance of Ogodei's rule and impact of his death in 1241; problems of succession and rivalry; reign of Guyuk; role of Subedei, Chormaqan and Kitbuqa; the attitude and skill of Batu; Mongke and the impact of his death in 1259; personal ambition of Berke and Hulegu, encounter at the Terek river; rivalry of Khubilai and Ariq-Boke, comparative individual contributions of the Great Khans to Mongol expansion by 1264.</p>



Key Topic	Indicative Content	Extended Content
<p>The Reign of Khubilai Khan 1264-94.</p>	<p>Consolidation and control of China; economic policies, political structures, provincial administration, legal code, religious policies and interaction with Buddhists, Confucians, Nestorians and Daoists; court rituals, patronage and culture; Dadu, Shangdu and the Grand Canal; military success and failure in China and South East Asia; limitations as khagan; extent of Mongol rule in the Golden Horde, Chagatai Khanate and Ilkhanate by 1294.</p>	<p>How far Khubilai's childhood and experience shaped his rule as Great Khan by 1264: Chinese-style education, Nestorian mother, early campaigns in China, effect of civil war in the 1260s.</p> <p>Why and how Khubilai was successful in his government and subjugation of the Chinese: adoption of sedentary customs alongside Mongolian rituals; transfer of the capital to Dadu and summer residence at Shangdu; role of Liu Ping-chung and Phags-pa-Lama; proclamation of the Yuan dynasty in 1271 and sinicisation of his image; court culture and the use of patronage and propaganda.</p> <p>How successful political, administrative, economic and religious policies were in terms of consolidation, control and efficiency: the Secretariat, Six Ministries, provincial governors and clerics; the ban of Chinese civil service examinations and changes to hierarchy; attitudes towards the peasantry, Confucian scholar-officials, artisans and merchants; employment of foreigners such as Marco Polo; introduction of paper money; fixed taxation, public works schemes and forced labour on the Grand Canal, rural cooperatives; the 1291 legal code; the extent of religious tolerance and whether it helped to consolidate control; preference for Buddhism and Tibetan Lamaism; 1281 debate between Buddhists and Daoists.</p> <p>The nature of cultural development in China: theatre, styles of painting and porcelain, calligraphy, introduction of the Square Script, the Chinese structure of the building of Dadu with the Imperial and Forbidden Cities, Zhao-Mengfu and Guan Dausheng, Liu Guandao, Confucian literati and individualism, Jamal al-Din.</p> <p>The extent and significance of Mongol rule (1264-94): the 'golden age' of cultural development and the impact of trade and the Silk Road; the Pax Mongolica; the 1281 expedition to map the source of the Yellow River and development of a new route to Tibet; sea voyages, Genoese and Venetian trading colonies and the development of Black Sea trade at Caffa and Sudaq; the importance of cities such as Sarai, Urgench, Bukara; cultural developments in the Ilkhanate such as the building of Takht-i-Sulaymun.</p> <p>Khubilai's role as Great Khan and whether he deserves recognition as a great leader: significance of cultural development and control of China as opposed to the limitations of his personal influence over the fractured Mongol khanates; rivalry of Hulegu and Berke; individual rule of Mongke Temur and continued alliance with Mamluk Egypt and Byzantium to contain the Ilkhanate; rivalry of Toqta and Noghay and challenges to Mongol rule; Khubilai's successful military campaigns such as the fall of Xiangyong and the defeat of the Song by 1279; naval disasters of 1274 and 1281 against Japan and the legend of the kamikaze; nature and effect of expeditions against Java, Burma, Cambodia and Vietnam; impact of military defeat on Khubilai's reputation.</p>



Key Topic	Indicative Content	Extended Content
<p>The Khanates 1294-1405.</p>	<p>Nature of Mongol rule; impact of Ghazan, Uzbek and the Yuan; role of Islam; disunity and reasons for decline; Tokhtamysh; rise of Tamerlane and his impact in Persia, Azerbaijan, India, and the Levant.</p>	<p>Reasons for regional developments, the extent of Mongol rule and eventual decline in the 14th century: personal rule and development of sedentary lifestyles; religious preferences and decline of Shamanism; rivalry and dynastic lines; marriage and alliances with Christians and Muslims; importance of individuals such as Ghazan, Uzbek and Tamerlane; impact of disease and the Black Death.</p> <p>The nature of Mongol rule in the Ilkhanate: Ghazan's adoption of Islam in 1295 and treatment of Buddhists; communication with China; cultural and scientific advances; economic revival and the role of Rashid al-Din; defeat at Wadi-al-Khazander in 1299; Oljeitu's transfer of capital from Tabriz to Sultaniyya, building of his tomb; Abu Said, 1322 peace treaty with Egypt and eventual loss of the Ilkhanate by 1335.</p> <p>Events in the Golden Horde and impact of Uzbek and the 'Tartar yoke': rivalry of Noghay and Toqta, the Battle of Kugenlik, actions of Cheke and Svetsolslav, Toqta's siege of Caffa and disruption of Genoese trade leading to the naval blockade of 1308, Uzbek's establishment of power and conversion to Islam; campaigns against Persia and Azerbaijan, raids in Thrace; marriage alliances with Byzantines and Egyptian Mamluks; development of trade, a unified currency and cities of Bulghar, Astrakan, New Sarai, Urgench; cultural development and the building of madrassahs, mosques and hospitals; the Venetian colony at Tana and the Genoese rebuilding of Caffa; intrigue in Russia and establishment of Ivan I; political disorder, revival under Tokhtamysh, defeat at Kulikovo Polye against the Muscovites.</p> <p>Yuan rule of China: Temur Oljeitu and Mongol unity by 1304; maintenance of loyalty from the Ilkhanate; military campaigns against Thailand; assassination, civil war and emergence of Toghon Temur; natural disasters and revolts in the 1340s; the loss of China to the Ming dynasty by 1368.</p> <p>How far the adoption of Islam became a unifying force or an opportunity to consolidate personal rule: individual upbringing, education and experience of the khans; use of Islamic clerics and longstanding links with Persia; gradual development of a Turco-Mongol population; building of mosques, madrassahs and shrines; development of Islamic manuscripts, histories and records.</p> <p>The significance and nature of the campaigns of Tamerlane: his rise to power from the disintegrated Chagatai khanate and reasons for his assumption of the title 'emir'; reputation as the 'Sword of Islam'; negotiations with and defeat of Tokhtamysh; diplomatic relations with Henry II of Castile and Charles VI of France; Battle of the Kondurcha River and invasion of the Golden Horde; capture of Isfahan, Balkh, Urgench; fall of Delhi in 1398; campaigns against Ottomans and Mamluks, and success at Aleppo, Damascus, Baghdad and Ankara.</p>



Key Topic	Indicative Content	Extended Content
<p>Impact of the Mongol Invasions and Interaction between East and West.</p>	<p>Effect on Christian, Muslim and Mongol culture, medicine, science, and technology; fusion of nomadic and sedentary customs; influence of Persia and China; bubonic plague; role of trade, the Silk Road and Pax Mongolica; travellers and tales from the East such as Marco Polo; ideological impact.</p>	<p>How and why Christian and Muslim knowledge and views of the Mongols changed during the period: psychological impact of early campaigns and the effect of barbarism, destruction and ignorance; contradictory beliefs of Tarshish and the three kings or the legendary Prester John as opposed to legends of Gog and Magog, the Tartarus and 'Devil's Horsemen'; apocalyptic fear, treachery, attacks on the Jews after 1241; the reaction of the western Church, 1245 Ecumenical Council of Pope Innocent IV and the dispatch of Franciscan missionaries; interaction, alliances, expansion of trade and travellers on the Silk Road by the end of the 13th century; Mongol tolerance and respect for artisans, merchants and religious officials; marriage, slavery and alliances; employment of Persian clerics; establishment of Genoese monopoly on the Black Sea and Venetian rivalry; the impact of the Black Death and biological warfare of Janibeg when besieging Caffa in 1347; reputation and legacy of Genghis and Tamerlane.</p> <p>The role of Christian and Muslim travellers, chronicles, histories and accounts in spreading knowledge or encouraging myth, the significance of their interaction with Mongols: William of Rubruck, John of Plano Carpini, Thomas of Spalato, Longjumeau, John of Monte Corvino, Vincent de Beauvais, Marco Polo, Matthew Paris, Sir John Mandeville, Pegolotti's <i>Pratica della Mercatura</i>, the <i>Chronicle of Novgorod</i>, John of Marignolli, Rabban Sauma, Ibn Battuta, influence of the <i>Shahnama</i> (Book of Kings), Rashid al-Din's <i>Universal History</i>, Juvaini, Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo.</p> <p>The extent to which the Mongols caused and encouraged cultural interaction and development between East and West: free commerce, universal law and Pax Mongolica along the Silk Road; the impact of Mongol disunity by the 14th century and adoption of sedentary rule; spread of Chinese inventions such as printing and gunpowder; the transportation of Persian cloth of gold to Central Asia and China; patronage of Jamal-al-Din; development of the calendar and numerical records; the spread of games such as chess and playing cards; the observatory of Maragha; Chinese artistic styles influencing Persian art and the 'school of Tabriz' (dragon and phoenix motifs, lajvardina ceramics, miniatures); the development of the Islamic book and illuminations; the representation of silk and eastern luxuries in Christian art; the development of the Russian language from Turco-Mongol languages; Arabic-Mongol and Persian-Mongol dictionaries; the exchange of goods from the Baltic, France and Italian states via centres such as Bulghar, Trebizond and Samarkand.</p>



USEFUL RESOURCES

R Marshall, **Storm From the East** (1993)

D Morgan, **The Mongols** (2nd ed.2007)

M Rossabi, **The Mongols: a very short introduction** (2012)

J P Roux, **Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire** (Thames and Hudson 2003)

J J Saunders, **The History of the Mongol Conquests** (1971)

J Weatherford, **Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World** (2004)

Storm From the East (4 part BBC series)

Barbarians: The Mongols (History Channel)

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/>

<http://www.metmuseum.org/learn/for-educators>

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/yuan/hd_yuan.htm

<http://www.silk-road.com/artl/paxmongolica.shtml>

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/texts.html>

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/mongols/mongols.html>

<http://sites.asiasociety.org/chinaandglobalization/morris-rossabi-on-the-history-of-the-mongol-empire-2/>

<http://archnet.org/syllabis/13>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/corvino1.asp>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/resources/av/podcasts>





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