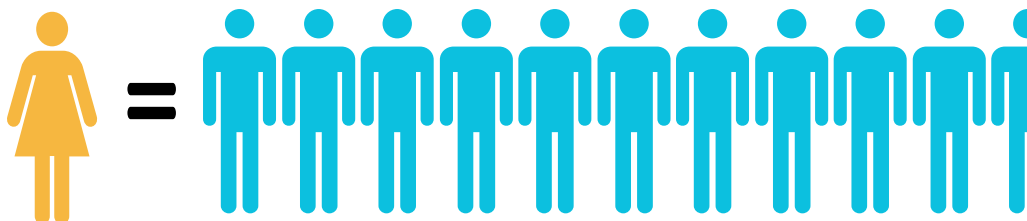


Did you know?

In all the History GCSE and A Level papers issued in England in 2023 by the three main exam boards, **AQA, Pearson Edexcel, and OCR:**

Students were directed to discuss women in their answers for **only 6%** of questions, compared to **36.5%** questions on men.



For every **1** woman named in an exam question there were **10.5** named men.

Only **22** of the **163** historians quoted in the exam papers were women.

There were only **31** instances of named women mentioned across 991 questions – **9** of these instances were of Elizabeth I.

No women were mentioned at all in questions, source material or mark schemes for 76 out of 219 papers.



9 out of the top **11** women referenced were **royal**. **6** were queens of England.

Only **one** paper out of the 219 did not mention men...

This has got us asking...

“Where are all the women?”

How we can improve the representation of women in History GCSE and A-Level assessments

Why we should care

- Unbalanced History reinforces negative stereotypes and excludes people from seeing themselves in the curriculum.
- Over-reliance on individual women referred to as 'exceptional' (like Elizabeth I) obscures the contributions of many other powerful and influential women.
- Students leave school largely unaware of women's political and social significance before the twentieth century.
- Exam assessments have a 'knock-on' effect on what is taught in earlier school History (e.g. KS3).

See **End Sexism in School's** ['The Great History Heist'](#) report.

Read the full report on History assessments:

What can be done about it

Ask exam boards to:

- Revise their existing modules to provide further opportunities to teach women in history.
- Increase the diversity of examples of women, particularly pre-modern women, in their assessments.
- Include more female-authored content in their assessments, both as primary sources and as historian interpretations.
- Partner with government and ITT to ensure that effective CPD is available to support teachers to include women.

