**OCR ANCIENT HISTORY OPTION 1: GREECE AND PERSIA UNIT 1:**

**THE PERSIAN EMPIRE**

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| Key Topic | Key topics | Red | Amber | Green |
| The rise of the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great 559–530 BC | The background and accession of Cyrus |  |  |  |
| the conquest of Lydia; the conquest of Babylon |  |  |  |
| Cyrus’ attitude towards conquered peoples and his liberation of the Jews |  |  |  |
| the construction of Pasargadae |  |  |  |
| the circumstances of Cyrus’ death |  |  |  |
| Cambyses II, Smerdis and the accession of Darius 530–522 BC | Cambyses’ conquest of Egypt |  |  |  |
| Cambyses’ attitude towards the Egyptians and their culture |  |  |  |
| the circumstances of Cambyses’ death |  |  |  |
| Darius’ overthrow of Smerdis / Bardiya / Gaumata |  |  |  |
| The reign of Darius the Great 522–486 BC | Darius’ pacification of the empire |  |  |  |
| including the restoration of control over Babylon |  |  |  |
| construction of Susa, Persepolis and the Egyptian canal |  |  |  |
| Persian expansion into the Aegean Sea |  |  |  |
| the campaign in India |  |  |  |
| the war with the Scythians |  |  |  |
| Persian culture and religion under Darius |  |  |  |
| Darius’ organisation and administration of the Persian Empire |  |  |  |
| the Ionian Revolt, including its causes, course and consequences |  |  |  |
| Persian relations with Athens prior to the revolt |  |  |  |
| Mardonius’ expedition of 493–492 BC |  |  |  |
| the expedition to Greece in 490 BC and its aftermath |  |  |  |
| Xerxes I and the Greeks 486–465 BC | Death of Darius and accession of Xerxes |  |  |  |
| the suppression of revolts in Babylonia and Egypt |  |  |  |
| the invasion of Greece, including Persian preparation, the journey to Greece, the battle of Thermopylae, the sack of Athens, the battle of Salamis;  |  |  |  |
| Persian military organisation and fighting techniques |  |  |  |
| the completion of Darius’ building projects |  |  |  |
| the Battle of Eurymedon and Plutarch’s ‘famous peace’ |  |  |  |