

A Level History – Bridging work

Hope you are all well and taking care at the moment. Please find outlined below the bridging work which you can be working through in preparation for the A level history course in September.

The bridging work which we are recommending you to do is basically going to give you a background to both the American and British sides of the course to help you get used to some of the key terms, find out who some of the key people were and what state both America and Britain were in at the start of the period we will be studying.

If at any point you need to ask anything or are unsure then please contact us and we be happy to help.

For queries about the British side of the course please contact Miss Smith on bsmith@qehs.net or Mrs Hodgson on lhodgson@qehs.net.

For queries about the American side of the course please contact Mr Robson on arobson@qehs.net or Mrs Hodgson on lhodgson@qehs.net.

A Level History – The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007

The course begins with Winston Churchill being voted back into power in the 1951 election after the Labour Party led by Clement Attlee had ruled Britain from 1945-1951.

However, it is important that you understand what happened during World War Two as some of this is revisited in the first part of the course.

Task 1

Please read through the booklet, Britain 1939-1945, accessible here: https://www.qehs.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/history_britain_1939-45_alevel_reading_prep.pdf and then complete the following questions:

1. What was the Phoney War? When did it happen?
2. Who was Prime Minister when war broke out? Why was he replaced? What was he criticised for?
3. Who became Prime Minister in May 1940?
4. What is a coalition government?
5. Who were the members of the Coalition Government 1940-1945?
6. What does consensus mean? What are the arguments for and against 1940-1945 being a period of consensus?
7. Explain three positive and negative impacts of World War Two on the British economy.
8. What was the Lend-Lease scheme?
9. What did the Emergency Powers Act of 1939 allow Ernest Bevin to do?
10. How did World War Two impact on British society? Explain at least three ways.
11. What was the Beveridge Report and why was it so important?

12. How did the war affect women?
13. How did the war affect people's lives? What key changes did it lead too?
14. How did the war help the Labour Party?

Extension tasks

1. You could create profiles of key people from the booklet e.g. Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee, William Beveridge, Ernest Bevin.
2. You could start a glossary of any key words you may not be aware of e.g. consensus, coalition.

Further reading

If you want to do some further reading we recommend but this is not essential at this point:

Andrew Marr: A History of Modern Britain, published by Pan, ISBN 1509839666 – you can pick a new copy up on Amazon for £10.36 new but they also have use copies of sale.

There is also a series which accompanies the book – you can get this on dvd through Amazon. The first episode is currently available on BBC iplayer. Just type in Andrew Marr A History of Modern Britain into the search box.

TV viewing:

There have been quite a few programmes on commemorating VE day over the last few weeks which you maybe able to view via Catch Up on your TVs.

Channel 4: VE Day in Colour: Britain's Biggest Party – gives a great insight into life at the time and includes interviews with people who were there on VE day.

Netflix: The Crown – Series 1 in particular covers the period 1947 through to 1955. The series covers Queen Elizabeth II from her wedding in 1947, her becoming queen and the early part of her reign. It puts the period into context well – particularly the social differences with the present day.

A Level History – The Making of a Superpower, The USA 1865-1975

The course begins with America emerging from a bitter and bloody Civil War which has taken place from 1861 until 1865. Four million African Americans find themselves freed from slavery and for nearly all Americans life has been turned upside down.

Once of the most important things for you to understand is that America as you know it today was completely different to the America we find at the start of the course. The Western Frontier still hadn't been won and America did not own all of the territory which now makes up the United States of America.

The work below will hopefully give you an insight into what America was like before 1865 and introduce some of the key terms and people that you will come across.

Task 1

You are going to be using GCSE Pod in order to complete some research into life in America before 1865. Go to the section where you would have found the pods on the Cold War topics: AQA History: Paper 1 Understanding the Modern World. Choose the topic America, 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation.

You are going to use the podcasts to research and make notes about the following:

A. Expansion: Opportunities and Challenges

B. Conflict across America

C. Consolidation: Forging a nation

Overall these podcasts and the notes you will be making will give you an insight into how America was very different in 1865 when we start the course. It will make you realise how far America has come to be the superpower it is today.

A. Expansion: Opportunities and Challenges

Listen to the podcasts in this section in order and answer the following questions:

1. What was difficult about living in America in 1840?
2. Who were the Plains Indians?
3. Describe the key features of how the Plains Indians lived.
4. How were the Great Plains viewed in early American history? Why were they viewed like this?
5. What does the phrase Manifest Destiny mean?
6. Who were the Mormons and where did they settle?
7. Why did people decide to move West? What was it about the Western Frontier that attracted them?
8. What was the Californian Gold Rush and what impact did it have?
9. What was the Homestead Act of 1862?
10. Who were the Pioneer Migrant Farmers?

B. Conflict across America

Listen to the podcasts in this section in order and answer the following questions:

1. Which was ended in 1848? What impact did this have on the Mormons in Salt Lake City?
2. What happened in 1857? What impact did this have on the Mormon people?
3. What happened during the Plains Wars – give some examples of how the Plains Indians were affected.
4. Where did most slaves live in America?
5. Why was America divided over slavery?

6. Why did Civil War break out in 1861? How did it affect the American people?

C. Consolidation: Forging the Nation

Listen to the podcasts in this section in order and answer the following questions:

1. Who were the Homesteaders?
2. What problems were there for farmers on the Plains?
3. What happened during the Great Sioux War? Who was involved and what were the consequences?
4. Explain what happened during the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890.
5. When were African Americans freed from slavery?
6. What does the term Reconstruction mean? What did the different states of America have to do after the Civil War?
7. Who were the main political groups in America after the Civil War? What were each group's aims?
8. What are the rights of the individual states in America? How is the system of governing in America different to Britain?

Further reading

If you want to do some further reading we recommend but this is not essential at this point:

Hugh Brogan: The Penguin History of the United States of America, published by Penguin in 2001, ISBN 014025255X, currently available on Amazon for £11.99 new or there are used copies available.

Videos

The below video gives you an insight into the lack of unity in America in 1860. John Green does a number of these videos which might be worth checking out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roNmeOOJCDY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s&index=18>