Student name:

**Transition work for A Level History (Examination Board = Edexcel)**

In Year 12 we study ‘Democracies in change: Britain and the USA in the 20th Century’. This is separated into two papers.

**Paper 1: Option 1H- Britain 1918-1997**

This option comprises a study of British history from the end of the First World War in 1918 to the election of Tony Blair as prime minister in 1997. During this time Britain was challenged by war, fluctuations in the economy, technological advancement and the desire for greater social equality. The response to these challenges has in many ways created the political, social and economic climate of the twenty-first century today. In 1918, Britain emerged from the First World War a victorious power, having survived four years of one of the most destructive wars in history. However, the end of the war did not bring peace or prosperity or social stability. Britain was fighting against the communists in Russia, in massive debt to the USA and facing the social consequences of fighting a total war. Not only that but domestic problems which had been put on hold from 1914 were about to re-emerge: Irish independence, working-class protest and votes for women. Indeed, some commentators have gone as far as to suggest (jokingly) that with America becoming ‘top nation’ British history actually came to a ‘full stop’ in 1918.

Option 1H will show that, far from coming to an end, the British response to the challenges of the twentieth century created a history which is dynamic, interesting and, at times, controversial. Britain experienced the General Strike (1926), the abdication crisis (1936), the Blitz (1940), the birth of the National Health Service (1948), the Suez Crisis (1956), the ‘Swinging Sixties’ and the election of the first woman Prime Minister (1979) to name just a few events.

The broad history of this period is one in which the male-dominated, class-based political and social system of 1918 was challenged both by those who felt excluded from the system and by the technological advances of the twentieth century. Historians differ in their opinions as to the extent to which this situation had been transformed by 1979 but clear trends can be identified. Many people became less deferent to the class system and more secular (less religious). More people gained the right to vote and political representation became more diverse. The rights of women along with social and ethnic minorities became increasingly recognised. A national welfare system was created to provide social security, health and education. A consensus emerged over the necessity of a mixed economy: part capitalist, part socialist. While technological developments modernised communications and saw the spread of mass popular culture.

In the 1980s, the ability of Britain to adapt to these trends and challenges further came into question. The conservatism of Margaret Thatcher suggested that social and cultural changes had, in fact, undermined social stability, and that the mixed economy had undermined Britain’s economic strength by becoming imbalanced towards socialism. Her attempts to ‘roll back’ some of the trends of the previous decades were more successful in some areas than others and often very controversial. Historians still debate the impact of her time in office (1979–90). However, by 1997, at the end of 18 years of conservative government, most agree that politics and economics had become more conservative while social and cultural challenges continued apace.

Indeed, the arguments surrounding the role of public services, banking practices, moral values and national identity today can all be found in the controversy of the 1980s and the challenges brought about by the events of the twentieth century.

**Overview:**

**1.A changing political and economic environment, 1918 - 1979**

An in depth look at the political and economic landscape in the UK throughout the 20th Century.

**2.Creating a welfare state, 1918 - 1979**

Students will learn about the extent and changing nature of social welfare provision throughout the 20th Century.

**3.Society in transition, 1918 - 1979**

A focussed study of the changes to class and social values, leading to the emergence of the ‘liberal society’.

**4.The changing quality of life, 1918 - 1979**

Students will investigate how standards of living have changed throughout the 20th Century, as a result of the First and Second World Wars.

**5.Historical Interpretation**

What impact did Thatcher’s governments (1979–1990) have on Britain?

Students will investigate the effect of Thatcher’s economic policies and the extent to which state intervention and the public sector were ‘rolled-back’. As well as the extent of political and social division within Britain and the effect of Thatcherism on politics and party development.

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| **What you can read** | **What you can watch** | **What you can undertake** |
| 1. Edexcel AS/A Level History, Paper 1&2: Democracies in Change: Britain and the USA in the 20th Century Student Book + Activebook (Edexcel GCE History 2015) – Stuart Clayton ***This is the textbook we use. We have copies to loan you in Year 12 but if you want to buy your own copy so you can annotate it, feel free. Nb: Both Britain and the USA are in this book).*** 2. Stephen J. Lee, Aspects of British Political History, 1914-95 (Routledge, 1996) 3. Norman Lowe, Mastering Modern British History (Macmillan, 1998) 4. Arthur Marwick, A History of the Modern British Isles (Blackwell, 2000) 5. Michael Lynch, Introduction to Modern British History (Hodder Murray, 2007)   You should also be aware of the journals History Today and History Review. These are highly recommended to students who have a broad interest in the subject matter and they also include articles about essay writing and applications to universities. Many of such articles will be made available from past editions.  There are wider reading articles being added to the VLE [here](https://stbernardshighschool.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/STB_Subjects_HI/En2pkQYnwoJOt6DdugRq3pYBdxLqlPCzXm4MqRBW1rLTjw?e=qLb9nT). Check back every now and then to see what has been added. | **Films**  Made in Dagenham (2010)  Iron Lady (2011)  The Deal (2003)  Pride (2014)  Spirit of ’45 (2013)  Left, Right and Centre (1959)  A United Kingdom (2016)  **Youtube documentaries:**  Andrew Marr: Making of Modern Britain (2009) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vx3-uVwAVo4>  Britain in 1940 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgnGprRwIY8>  The Thatcher Years: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6L6kelnvwg>  Britain after WW2 and the creation of the Welfare State: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r30XDrcIqOY>  Andrew Neil, Class Politics:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tF7OJhG7J84&t=62s>  Christopher Hitchens, What did Thatcher do for Britain?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8W5Zy-gagU> | The Following tasks will help you understand the unit more when you get into Year 12.   1. Research All of the British Prime Ministers during this time period from the list and complete a two-page biography of them. Include:   •Their background  •The key parts of their political career  •Any notable successes or failures they may have had  •Try to include opinions of historians/other politicians  The List of Prime Ministers include:  Clement Attlee  Winston Spencer-Churchill  Anthony Eden  Harold Macmillan  Harold Wilson  Edward Heath  James Callaghan  Margaret Thatcher   1. For each decade from 1918 onwards, research and create detailed notes about three laws that were introduced during the decade and what impact it had. |

**Paper 2: Option 2H-The USA 1955-1992: conformity and challenge**

This option comprises a study in depth of the USA in the years 1955–92, from post-1945 affluence, through racial and political protests in the 1960s, to the rise of right-wing groups in the 1980s and the America of Ronald Reagan.

In 1955, the USA was experiencing a period of unparalleled affluence. Unlike Britain, where victory in the Second War had brought a decade of austerity, the USA had emerged from the war both victorious and prosperous. The America of 1955 was a vibrant, self-confident country exporting its ideas and values across the world in the form of political influence and popular culture. President Eisenhower, who as army general had organised the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944, governed a country with super-power status.

1950s America seemed to exude youth. The post-war economic boom produced both consumer goods and babies. The children born during and just after the Second World War — the ‘baby boomers’ — were growing up and their parents had the money to provide them with material things. Advertising discovered more and more products to sell to these ‘teenagers’ and popular culture catered for their taste in entertainment. Meanwhile a youthful presidential candidate — John F Kennedy — was promising America that the 1960s would be a ‘New Frontier’ to rival the ‘Old Frontier’ of the American West.

However, underneath this affluence and confidence lay challenges which would become more apparent as the decades moved on. Not everyone benefited from the post-war boom and conservative American values placed suspicion on those who did not conform. Most African-Americans and other ethnic minorities suffered discrimination and lived on the poverty line, many women felt frustrated by a life of domesticity in the all-American home, and those with radical views were often condemned as ‘communist traitors’.

On 1 December 1955, one act of defiance brought the tensions between those who benefited and those who did not into stark reality: Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, at the end of a long working day refused to give up her seat on a crowded bus to a white customer. The history of the two decades after this event is the history of how these tensions unfolded further and helped to shape the USA of today. American prosperity continued through the 1960s, mirrored in its popular culture, but social tensions and political events challenged its security. The civil rights movement won advancements but many became radicalised in the process. The fight against the spread of communism brought the Vietnam War, which questioned the might of American power, undermined the presidency and put the lives of America’s youth at risk. Four men prominent in American politics were assassinated. A counter-culture emerged.

Many Americans hoped that the 1970s would bring greater stability. However, despite continued super-power status and the advance of American popular culture, it only brought further challenges. Conservative America hoped that President Nixon would bring stability but he resigned amid scandal and corruption. Presidents Ford (Republican) and Carter (Democrat) found themselves dealing with both social tensions and economic downturn. In the 1980s, the tensions did not go away but the 1980 presidential election ushered in 12 years of Republican rule. Ronald Reagan’s presidency was as controversial as Margaret Thatcher’s in Britain. Just as in Britain, while politics and economics became more conservative, so social advancement continued to some degree. However, in America the social and cultural values polarised even more. Today, ‘Obama-care’ may have introduced health insurance for more Americans than ever before but ultra-conservative Republicanism is also thriving.

The option is divided into the following four topics, though students need to appreciate the linkages between topics, as questions may target the content of more than one topic.

**Overview:**

**Key Topics**

**1.Affluence and conformity, 1955 - 1963**

Students will consider the challenges to cultural conformity, including social change in film and TV, advertising and music.

**2.Protest and reaction, 1963 – 1972**

Students will explore Johnson’s Great Society (1964 – 1968) and will evaluate the impact of Johnson’s achievements, whilst studying the reactions to the counter-culture in the following years (1968 – 1972).

**3.Social and Political change, 1973 - 1980**

Students will explore changes to popular culture, including sports, business, music, film and TV, including the depiction of political and social tensions and a return to escapism and developments in news media.

**4.Republican dominance and its opponents, 1981 - 1992**

Students will further investigate cultural challenges with trends in youth culture, the impact of technology, the growth of cable television and influence of MTV, as well as the impact of the AIDS crisis.

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| **What you can read** | **What you can watch** | **What you can undertake** |
| 1. Edexcel AS/A Level History, Paper 1&2: Democracies in Change: Britain and the USA in the 20th Century Student Book + Activebook (Edexcel GCE History 2015) – Stuart Clayton ***This is the textbook we use. We have copies to loan you in Year 12 but if you want to buy your own copy so you can annotate it, feel free. Nb: Both Britain and the USA are in this book)*** 2. Ron Field, Civil Rights in America, 1865-1980 (Cambridge, 2002) - This is a more challenging further text for students who wish to read more widely. 3. David Paterson, Doug & Susan Willoughby, Civil Rights in the USA, 1863-1980 (Heinemann, 2001) - This is a good, simple introductory text. 4. Vivienne Saunders, Race Relations in the USA, 1863-1980 (Hodder Murray, 2008) - A very thorough author whose works are highly recommended. 5. Vivienne Saunders, Civil Rights in the USA, 1945-1968 (Hodder Murray, 2008) - A book more specifically focused the period associated with Martin Luther King. 6. Geoff Stewart, et al. Boom, Bust and Recovery: America 1917-55 (Edexcel, 2009) - Standard A-level text covering the earlier part of the course.   You should also be aware of the journals History Today and History Review. These are highly recommended to students who have a broad interest in the subject matter and they also include articles about essay writing and applications to universities. Many of such articles will be made available from past editions.  There are wider reading articles being added to the VLE [here](https://stbernardshighschool.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/STB_Subjects_HI/En2pkQYnwoJOt6DdugRq3pYBdxLqlPCzXm4MqRBW1rLTjw?e=qLb9nT). Check back every now and then to see what has been added. | **Films**  Malcolm X (1992)  ABC  All the President’s Men (1967)  Nixon (1996)  Parkland (2013)  Selma  The Butler  **YouTube Documentaries:**  **The Century: America's Time - 1953-1960: Happy Daze**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6dsc5p5-3A&list=PLvGgZ5v2o_N8dDogxreL2-NbnfKHgHxqY&index=9>  **The Century: America's Time - 1960-1964: Poisoned Dreams**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93iBar-VrqA&list=PLvGgZ5v2o_N8dDogxreL2-NbnfKHgHxqY&index=10>  **The Century: America's Time - 1965-1970: Unpinned**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jET2qR8Y-Ng&list=PLvGgZ5v2o_N8dDogxreL2-NbnfKHgHxqY&index=11>  **The Century: America's Time - 1971-1975: Approaching the Apocalypse**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cLvv5FH0FA&list=PLvGgZ5v2o_N8dDogxreL2-NbnfKHgHxqY&index=12>  **The Century: America's Time - 1976-1980: Starting Over**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vus0FTWWcXE&list=PLvGgZ5v2o_N8dDogxreL2-NbnfKHgHxqY&index=13>  **The Century: America's Time - 1981-1989: A New World**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNwrhgFrqSU&list=PLvGgZ5v2o_N8dDogxreL2-NbnfKHgHxqY&index=14>  **The Century: America's Time - The 90s And Beyond: Then And Now**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtSNgdkwXkU&list=PLvGgZ5v2o_N8dDogxreL2-NbnfKHgHxqY&index=15> | The Following tasks will help you understand the unit more when you get into Year 12.   1. Research All of the American Presidents from the list and complete a two page biography of them. Include:   •Their background  •The key parts of their political career  •Any notable successes or failures they may have had  •Try to include opinions of historians/other politicians  The list of American Presidents are:  Dwight D Eisenhower 1953-61  John F Kennedy 1916-63  Lyndon B Johnson 1963-69  Richard Nixon 1969-74  Gerald Ford 1974-77  Jimmy Carter 1977-81  Ronald Reagan 1981-89  George Bush 1989-93   1. Create a detailed mind map of what the USA was like socially, economically and politically in 1955 2. Research how the US Government is set up. Make sure you know the powers the Federal government and the State governments have. What is the Supreme Court? How does it work? |