



Transition Materials for A Level History:

Edexcel Paper 2, Option 2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

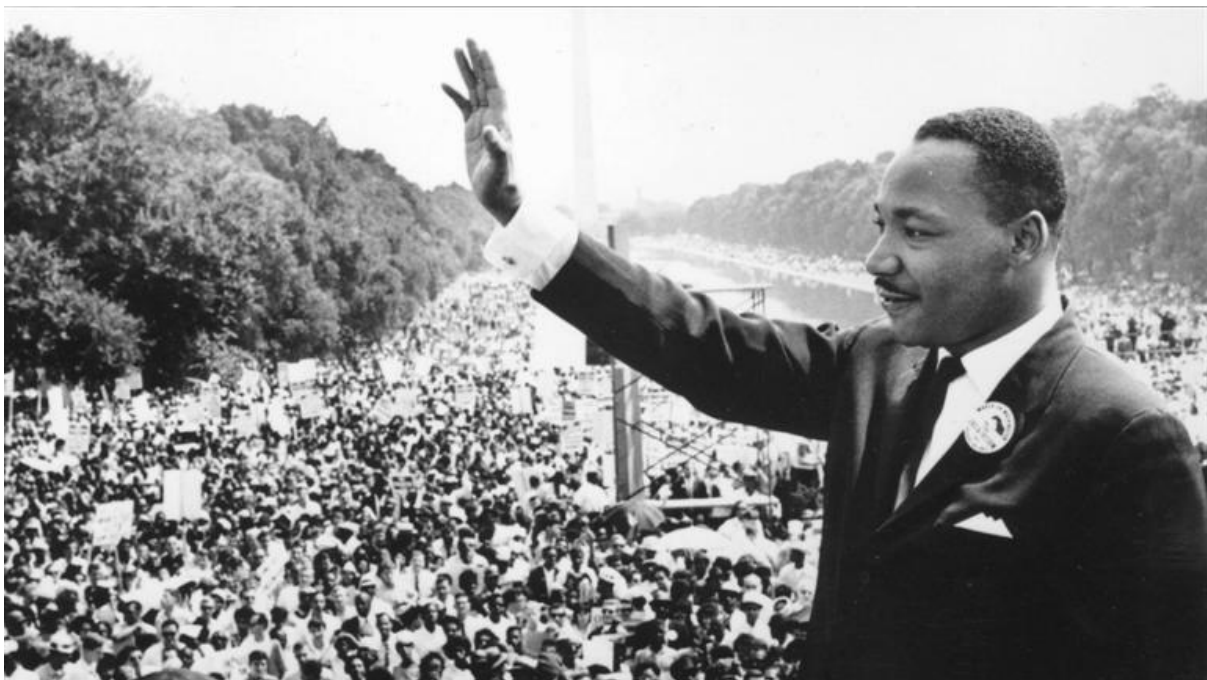
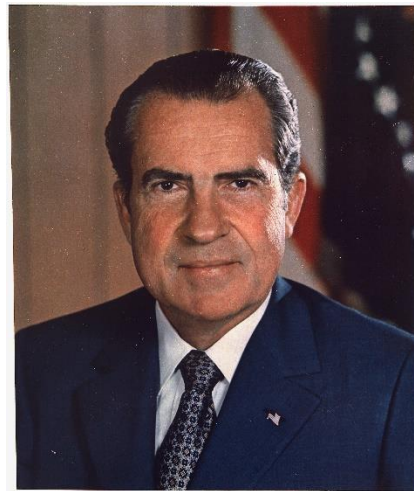


Introduction

It is great that you are considering studying History at A Level.

This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to start an A Level in History in September. It is aimed to be used after you complete your GCSE throughout the remainder of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

Discovering the past is great fun. I hope that you will agree!



1. Reading List

Fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck • Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck • <i>Once Two Heroes</i>, Calvin Baker (2003) • <i>The Things We Cherished</i>, Pam Jenoff (2011) • <i>The Listener</i>, Shira Nayman (2009) • <i>Sophie's Choice</i>, William Styron (1979) • <i>The Spy Who Came in from the Cold</i>, John Le Carre (2010) 														
Non-Fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russia, America and the Cold War: 1949-1991</i> (2nd edition), Martin McCauley (2008) • <i>Five Presidents: My Extraordinary Journey with Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford</i>, C. Hill and L. McCubbin (2016) • <i>John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Life 1917-63</i>, Robert Dallek (2013) • <i>Grand Expectations: The US 1945-74</i>, James Patterson (1996) 														
Film Resources	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">JFK (1991)</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Milk (2008)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Thirteen Days (2000)</td> <td style="border: none;">Selma (2014)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">The Butler (2013)</td> <td style="border: none;">Argo (2012)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Frost/Nixon (2008)</td> <td style="border: none;">The Help (2011)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Stonewall (2015)</td> <td style="border: none;">Smoke Signals (1998)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Malcom X (1992)</td> <td style="border: none;">Ghosts of Mississippi (1996)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">All the Presidents Men (1976)</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> </table>	JFK (1991)	Milk (2008)	Thirteen Days (2000)	Selma (2014)	The Butler (2013)	Argo (2012)	Frost/Nixon (2008)	The Help (2011)	Stonewall (2015)	Smoke Signals (1998)	Malcom X (1992)	Ghosts of Mississippi (1996)	All the Presidents Men (1976)	
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Suggested websites:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanExperience/videos>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera>

<http://www.ushistory.org/>

<http://spartacus-educational.com/USA.htm>

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>

<http://www.datesandevents.org/events-timelines/03-cold-war-timeline.htm>

http://faculty.washington.edu/qtaylor/a_us_history/cold_war_timeline.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_United_States

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/Presidents>

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1951-/martin-luther-kings-i-have-a-dream-speech-august-28-1963.php>

<http://www.presentationmagazine.com/analysis-of-martin-luther-kings-i-have-a-dream-speech-8059.htm>

http://changingminds.org/analysis/i_have_a_dream.htm

Full 20 minute version of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I47Y6VHc3Ms>

<http://www.pbs.org/show/american-experience/>

<http://teachrock.org/>

2. The first 3 weeks...

In the first 3 weeks we will be covering part of 'Topic 1. Affluence and conformity, 1955–63':

- Background to America in the early 1950s.
 - Urbanisation and affluence:
 - o the changing nature of cities
 - o expansion of the suburbs
 - o highway development
 - o growing ownership and use of cars
 - o white collar jobs and service industries
 - o consumerism and domestic technology.
 - Cultural conformity and challenge:
 - o suburban conformity and social change in film and TV
 - o advertising
 - o the challenge of teenage culture and music
 - o 'beatnik' culture.
1. Research the 'American Dream': what was it and what did it mean in 1950s America?
 2. Listen to some 1950s music and learn some names of artists who 'conformed' and who 'challenged', using:
<http://teachrock.org/lesson/how-to-study-rock-and-roll/> (Birth of Rock, Teenage Rebellion)

3. Independent Research

- 1) Create a timeline outlining the events of the Cold War (if you've not done this at GCSE).
- 2) Create an A3 information sheet, with facts and images, of the following events: Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War, Iran Hostage Crisis.
- 3) Create an A3 information sheet, with facts and images, of the following American presidents: Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush.
- 4) Find 5 images associated with the Civil rights. Annotate them with as much detail as possible. Think: What, When, Where, Why, Consequences. Feel free to add extra information that you find interesting.
- 5) Download Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech from YouTube. Why is this a famous speech? Why has it become one of the most famous speeches ever? What do you think of it? Explain your view.
- 6) Find and file a map of the United States of America. Ensure that it shows the divide between northern and southern states.
- 7) Analyse the American Constitution; what are its strengths and weaknesses?
- 8) Research and create a diagram that explains the organisation of the Federal government of the USA. Add details of the responsibilities of each branch of the Executive.
- 9) Research the main American political parties. What were their main viewpoints in 1945?
- 10) Use the following website to create a timeline of American presidential elections: www.270towin.com. Add details of what the key issues were during each election and what you find interesting about the election outcomes.
- 11) Research and ensure that you understand the difference between social, economic, political, religious and international history. Create a reference sheet for future use.
- 12) Research and ensure that you understand the differences between Capitalism and Communism. Create a reference sheet for future use.
- 13) Complete the glossary of key terms on the next page.

Glossary:

Constitution	
Bill of Rights	
Executive	
Congress	
Supreme Court	
House of Representatives	
Senate	
Impeach	
Intransigence	
Convention	
Executive Order	
Social mobility	
USSR/ Soviet Union	
Inflation	
Baby Boom	
States' rights	
State of the Union Address	
Lynching	
De jure/ De facto segregation	
Ghettoisation	
Suburbia	
Consumerism	
Beatnik	
Urbanisation	
Silent Majority	
Moral Majority	
Religious right	
Blaxploitation	

4. The World is Out There

- 1) Watch an American news channel to familiarise yourself with American vocabulary and current affairs. Look closely for news items associated with the upcoming election. Eg <http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press>
- 2) Buy an American newspaper to familiarise yourself with American vocabulary and current affairs. Look closely for news items associated with the recent election.
- 3) Use YouTube to watch documentaries on American history from 1955-892.
- 4) Watch *one of the listed films*.
- 5) Read any of the fiction novels listed on the reading list earlier in this document.
- 6) To develop your understanding of the geography of America, watch Stephen Fry's documentary 'Stephen Fry in America'. Episode 1 can be found on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yO6BgrnXcA