



# SIXTH FORM BRIDGING WORK

## Get Ready for History



**Getting organised: Make sure you have set up a Learning Folder (see Sixth Form file check for content). The PLCs (Personal Learning Checklists) should be at the front.**

### Subject mind-set and BIG picture thinking...

Your History A Level course will take you on a journey through new topics, new people and very interesting debates. You will be familiar with the topic of the USA in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from GCSE where we have a strong focus on Civil Rights. However, there will be new discoveries to be made about Britain and the political issues that embroiled the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries – with various protests, radical reformers and political unrest.

**Please complete the following tasks ahead of starting year 12 in September:**

#### Preparation reading and task:

Please see below the tasks and reading for both paper 1 and 2.

#### YEAR 12 PAPER 1 BRIDGING WORK TASK:

Our course starts in 1918, and explores different ways that Britain changed up to Margaret Thatcher's premiership. For example- how the government changed, welfare, education, society etc

Before we start, you will need strong knowledge of what **Britain was like at the beginning of the course.**

Your task will be;

1. Research Late Victorian/ Edwardian (up to 1918) Britain. **Start by buying Martin Pugh's *State and Society – the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* can be bought for as little as £3-£4 online.** Start on Part 2 (Chapters 7-10). There are also many extra reading recommendations below. Make notes as you go.
2. You will then need to answer the following question; (typed or handwritten are both fine)

**“What was British Society like in 1918?”**

You will need to make reference to

- What was the state of politics? Who was in power? (Labour, Liberal, Conservative parties)
- What were people's attitudes towards poverty, class, women, workers, the empire?
- What effect had WW1 had on Britain?

You will need to write **approx. 1000 words**, or 2 sides of A4 typed (likely much longer if hand written).

Suggested organisation:

-Introduction (50-100 words)

-3 paragraphs (~250 words each) on 3 different aspects (see above- you do not need to include every suggested topic).

- A conclusion (~150 words).

You will need to have this completed, and ready to hand in on the first week of term

### Recommended textbooks

**The core textbook for your first half of the course is:**

**1) Clayton, Murphy, Barnard, Bullock. (2015) *Democracies in Change: Britain and the USA in the 20th Century*. London: Pearson. ISBN: 9781447985297**

### Recommended websites /magazines/films for Paper 1

#### **Magazines**

BBC history magazine

Hindsight magazine

History today

#### **Websites**

BBC HISTORY

History hit

#### **Films/ TV series**

*Made in Dagenham, The boat that rocks, Pride*

*The Crown* and early episodes of *Downton Abbey* both on Netflix are good for context and have some of the key issues we look at.

BBC I player – *The Trial of Christine Keeler*

The BBC series Andrew Marr's *The Making of Modern Britain* is normally on YouTube. Episodes 1-3 give you some good background about Britain between 1900 and 1918, helping to prepare you for the starting point (1918) of the course itself.

The PBS series *The Century: America's Time* provides a good overview to the history of the USA since 1900. For background to the A-Level course (which starts c.1920), you should watch episode 1 ('The Beginning: Seeds of Change') and episode 2 ('1914-1919: Shell Shock'). Also on YouTube.

**Extra Reading for Paper 1 (Britain):**

**Martin Pugh *State and Society* – the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition can be bought for as little as £3-£4 online.** Start on Part 2 (Chapters 7-10).

Evans, Eric J., *Thatcher and Thatcherism* (London: Routledge, 1997)

Marr, Andrew, *A History of Modern Britain* (Oxford: Pan Macmillan, 2007)

Seldon, Anthony & Collings, Daniel, *Britain Under Thatcher* (London: Longman, 2000)

The Century Girls – Tessa Dunlop

Clarke, P. (2004) *Hope and Glory: Britain, 1900-2000*

## **YEAR 12 PAPER 2 BRIDGING WORK TASK:**

Research one of the presidents below and answer the appropriate question:

- 1) Kennedy's Space Race was his greatest achievement.
- 2) Johnson's actions in Vietnam were responsible for ending his presidency.
- 3) Reagan's economics made the country poorer.

You need to write around 1000 words – as above, about 2 sides of A4. Please also include what sources you have used to research your answer.

**You will also need the core textbook by Clayton as mentioned above for this unit.**

**I also highly recommend watching:**

**The Century: America's Time** – this documentary is broken into decades (focus on 1955-92) and can be found on youtube.

**The West Wing** – this is a TV drama made in the 1990s. It is fictional, but will help with your understanding of US politics. You can watch this for free on More 4.

**Madmed** – This more recent series is on streaming services such as Netflix. It is a fictional drama, but is very helpful for understanding the social history of the time and progression through the decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Recommended additional reading for Paper 2**

**Extra reading for Paper 2 (USA):**

For the USA, Zinn, H. A People's History of the USA is a classic, though is a big book that covers the whole of American history since 1492.

One Summer: America, 1927 by Bill Bryson

The Modern American Presidency by Lewis L. Gould

American Caesars: Lives of the US Presidents, from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George

W. Bush by Nigel Hamilton

To kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

My Antonia by Willa Cather

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

The Crucible/All My Sons/A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller (Plays)

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller

**FILMS for USA:**

Pearl Harbor (2001)

Jackie (2016)

The Help (2011)

Hidden Figures (2016)

Fog of War (2003)

Selma (2014)

Malcolm X (1992)

Forest Gump (1994)

Milk (2008)

Frost/Nixon (2008)

All the President's Men (2013)

Argo (2012)

**Possible places to visit**

- British Museum
- Imperial War Museum
- National Trust houses

