



A-level History

Y13 Revision Guide

January – May 2026

Exam Specification and Exam Board

AQA: 1K The Making of a Superpower: America 1865–1975 and 2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Past Paper Questions

[Link](#)

Useful Revision Websites

Britain - [Link](#)

USA - [Link](#)

Exam Info

2x 2.5hour exams

America: 3x historians' extracts and two essays from a choice of three

Britain: 3x contemporary sources and two essays from a choice of three

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Week	Activity 1 (USA)	Activity 2 (GB)
1 05.01.25	THE ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION AND THE GILDED AGE, 1865-1890: WEAKNESSES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE POLITICS OF THE GILDED AGE Use the following to help you: <u>Reconstruction and Gilded Age</u> (Link) and <u>Gilded Age</u> (Link), your notes and the textbooks. Create a profile on the Presidents 1865-1890. Includes details on their leadership and ideology, key policies and any election wins. Create living graph, plotting the success of the presidents. Annotate with reasons for your judgements.	1951-64: CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS Use the following to help you: <u>Governments</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvbwV3rRbRA&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=2 and <u>Economic Development</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLXECxXgUuo&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=3 You can use pages 10-15 of the Britain Revision guide (available in the textbook cupboard). Create a timeline for each of the Conservative PM's of this period: Churchill 1951-55, Eden 1955-57, Macmillan 1957-63 and Douglas-Home 1963-64. Detail their domestic and economic policies, as well as any internal Labour divisions during this time. Colour code your timelines into domestic, foreign and Labour divisions. Create a mindmap that details 'Stop-Go' economic policies of the period that details: • Definition of 'Stop-Go' • Statistics on industrial production • Statistics on balance of payments • Key dates and events

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		Write a summary to evaluate the successes and challenges of the 'stop-go' economic policies.
2 12.01.25	ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION AND THE GILDED AGE, 1865-1890: SOCIAL, REGIONAL AND ETHNIC DIVISION Use the following to help you: Society (Link) , your notes and the textbooks. Plan an answer to the question: 'In the years 1865-1890 America was a deeply divided country'. Assess the validity of this view. (25)	1951-64: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS Use the following to help you: Post-War Society https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNRZxbxsIPo&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=4 and Social Tensions https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u-e4tvs-TE&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=5 Create a table that details key changes for these groups in society: • The working class and 'Establishment' • Women • Immigration and racial violence • Teenagers and youth culture Identify all of the causes of the rise in living standards for these groups. Put the causes in order of importance and write a paragraph that explains your choices.
3 19.01.25	ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION AND THE GILDED AGE, 1865-1890: ECONOMIC GROWTH, LAISSEZ-FAIRE DOMINANCE Use the following to help you: Economic Growth (Link) , Laissez-Faire Government (Link) , your notes and the textbooks.	1951-64: FOREIGN RELATIONS Use the following to help you: Foreign Policy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aam8hEcbEvs

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	Plan an answer to the question: 'In the years 1865-1890 America was a deeply divided country'. Assess the validity of this view. (25) Make a mind-map detailing the economic growth America underwent during this period. Include: • Developments in Agriculture ○ The Northeast ○ The South ○ The West • Urbanisation • Industrialisation and the rise of corporations • Railroads • Steel and oil • Cartels and trusts • Consequences of laissez-faire • Reactions against laissez-faire	Create a timeline that includes key foreign policy decisions and events 1951-1964. Include: • Relations with the EEC • NATO and wars • Atomic bombs and the Cold War • Decolonisation and Empire Colour code the events into successes and failures.
4 26.01.25	THE ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION AND THE GILDED AGE, 1865-1890: THE LIMITS OF FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT AND THE CONTINUATION OF ISOLATIONISM, ENDING OF FRONTIER Use the following to help you: End of Frontier (Link), Foreign Policy in the Gilded Age (Link), your notes and the textbooks. Create a timeline plotting the main for policy events. Include: • Wars and treaties with indigenous American nations	THE SIXTIES: WILSON, LABOUR AND REFORMING LEGISLATION Use the following to help you: Issues in 1960s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtHmr4CaXrQ&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=7 and Liberal reforms under Wilson https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFP9QxM6B4Q&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=8 Make a profile on Wilson as Labour leader which includes the 1979 election and key policies.

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	• Examples of the 'Monroe Doctrine' • Territorial consolidation • Alaska • Tensions over Canada Write a brief explanation of how the 'Turner Thesis' and the end of frontier are linked.	Create a mindmap that details Labour's reforming legislation that includes economic policies, industrial relations, the beginnings of the 'Troubles' in NI, private member's bills and educational reforms. Plan an answer to the exam question: To what extent does the devaluation of the pound in 1967 explain the Labour Party's defeat at the 1970 election? (25)
5 02.02.25	POPULISM, PROGRESSIVISM AND IMPERIALISM, 1890-1920: POLITICAL TENSIONS AND DIVISIONS, NEW IDEAS AND THEIR INFLUENCE Use the following to help you: Political issues in the 1890s (Link) Populism and Progressivism (Link), your notes and the textbooks. Create a table of the key political figures (President, advisors etc.) between 1890 and 1920. Include the following columns: • Successes • Failures • Rating (give them a rating out of 10) Colour code your table to identify whether they were a populist or progressive. Plan an answer to the question:	THE SIXTIES: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS Use the following to help you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HRxlw5QnN4&list=PLXtShDmDvfwfwmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=9 and Wilson's Foreign Policy Write a definition on the 'Permissive society'. Make a timeline that details social and cultural changes during this period. Colour code the timeline into the different groups impacted by the changes: • The working class and 'Establishment' • Women

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	‘Populism had significant influence on national politics in the years 1890 to 1912.’ Assess the validity of this view of Populism. [25 marks]	• Immigration and racial violence • Teenagers and youth culture Plan an answer to the exam question: How significant was the impact of immigration on British society between 1958 and 1970? (25)
6 09.02.25	POPULISM, PROGRESSIVISM AND IMPERIALISM, 1890-1920: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS Use your notes the textbooks to help you. Plan an answer to the question: ‘Big business, not big government, was the reason for the dynamic growth of the American economy in the years 1890-1918.’ Assess the validity of this view. (25)	THE END OF POST WAR CONSENSUS: HEATH, WILSON AND CALLAGHAN’S GOVERNMENTS Use the following to help you: Heath's Government https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laDQii_YbDU&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=12 and Wilson and Callaghan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl4nHj_YvdM&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=14 Create a profile on Ted Heath that includes details on his leadership and ideology, key policies and the 1970 election win. Create a profile on James Callaghan that includes details on his leadership and ideology, key policies and time in office 1976-79. Make a timeline of industrial relations under all 3 PM's that includes major strikes, oil crises and Winter of Discontent.

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		Make a timeline of the 'Troubles' in the 1970s that includes Bloody Sunday, the Sunningdale Agreement and key tensions.
February Half Term	Your choice of task – past paper questions suggested.	Complete your choice of two essay plans, in mind map format.
7 23.02.25	POPULISM, PROGRESSIVISM AND IMPERIALISM, 1890-1920: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS Create mindmap looking at social developments. Include: • Mass immigration • Urbanisation • Social and ethnic divisions • Regional divisions • The social impact of Progressivism • Position of African-Americans Colour code to show areas of progress vs. Areas of conflict/problems arising.	THE END OF POST WAR CONSENSUS: SOCIETY IN THE 1970S AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS Use the following to help you: Society 1970s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVBRWeDjQUo&list=PLXtShDmDmDvfwfwmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=16 and Foreign Policy 1970s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Yxl8pRdZR4&list=PLXtShDmDmDvfwfwmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=17 Plan an answer to the essay question: 'Women's lives were transformed in the 1970s'. Assess the validity of this view. (25) Use the headings below to help you: • Reproductive health • Employment and education • Finance • Attitudes Create a mindmap on each of the remaining groups and highlight the changes in the 1970s: • Race and immigration • Youth • Environmentalism Make a timeline that shows Britain's relations with the USA,

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		<table><tr><td>Actions of the British government</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Actions of the Irish government</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Actions of the Republicans / Nationalists</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Actions of the Loyalists / Unionists</td><td></td></tr></table>	Actions of the British government		Actions of the Irish government		Actions of the Republicans / Nationalists		Actions of the Loyalists / Unionists	
Actions of the British government										
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Actions of the Loyalists / Unionists										
9 09.03.25	CRISIS OF IDENTITY, 1920-1945: DOMESTIC POLITICS, HARDING TO FDR Use the following to help you: <u>The Crisis of Identity</u> (Link) , <u>Republican Conservatism</u> (Link), <u>Legacy of Hoover</u> (Link) , your notes and the textbooks. Create a chart (e.g. living graph, flow diagram) highlighting the decreasing fortunes of the Republican Party. Make sure to include the actions of the Presidents themselves, as well as wider issues that led to FDR's election.	THATCHERISM: IMPACT ON SOCIETY Use the following to help you: <u>Society under Thatcher</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Np2xRnrldkI&list=PLXtShDmDvfwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=20 and <u>Opposition to Thatcher</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_V7UMsItEI&list=PLXtShDmDvfwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=21 Create a table that identifies areas of society, Thatcher's policies towards them and the consequences. <table><tr><th>Group in Society</th><th>Thatcher's policies</th><th>Consequences</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> Plan an answer to the question: 'It was the government's response to the miners' strike that made the strike so divisive and damaging to society.' Assess the validity of this view. (25)	Group in Society	Thatcher's policies	Consequences					
Group in Society	Thatcher's policies	Consequences								

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10 16.03.25	CRISIS OF IDENTITY, 1920-1945: THE ECONOMY Use the following to help you: <u>The Great Depression</u> (Link), <u>Hoover and the Great Depression</u> (Link), , <u>The New Deals</u> (Link), your notes and the textbooks. Create a living graph plotting America's journey from Boom to Bust. Make sure you annotate key turning points, where fortunes improved, worsened or stagnated. Plan and answer to the question: 'The onset of the Great Depression in the years 1929-1932 was due to the pro-business policies promoted by the Republicans since 1896.' Assess the validity of this view. [25 marks]	THATCHERISM: FOREIGN AFFAIRS Use the following to help you: <u>Thatcher's Foreign Policy</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qw0rfd60l&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=22 Complete a mindmap on Thatcher and international relations that examines the Falklands conflict, the Cold War, relations with the EEC and the special relationship with the USA. Create an in depth profile on the Falklands War and include a summary that evaluates whether the conflict was significant to Thatcher foreign policy and election strategy.
11 23.03.25	CRISIS OF IDENTITY, 1920-1945: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL, REGIONAL AND ETHNIC DIVISIONS Use your notes and the textbooks to help you. Create a mind map of the key social and cultural developments. Include: • The Jazz Age • The role of women • Prohibition and its failure • The social impact of the Great Depression • Social division and the rise of the KKK • Regional divisions • The position of African-Americans	NEW CONSENSUS: FALL OF THATCHER, RISE OF MAJOR, REALIGNMENT OF LABOUR Use the following to help you: <u>Fall of Thatcher</u> a https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k06d9v6b-C4&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=23nd <u>Major's Governments</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IPT_SgAsdQ&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=25 and <u>New Labour</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpgfPyunF0A&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=26

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	Compare to your social mind map for 1890-1920 and highlight the biggest areas of change (progress) and continuity.	Create a mindmap on the Fall of Thatcher detailing key events, individuals and dates. Create a profile on John Major that includes details on his leadership and ideology, key policies, key individuals and the 1992 election win. Create a timeline from the 1992 election win that includes economic events, political problems and policies, policies and events in Northern Ireland. Create a profile on Neil Kinnock and John Smith that includes details on their leadership and ideology, key policies, key individuals and the realignment of the Labour Party. Create a profile on Tony Blair that includes details on his leadership and ideology, key policies, key individuals and the 1997 election win.
Easter Break	Your choice of task – past paper questions suggested.	NEW CONSENSUS: 1987-97, SOCIAL ISSUES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS Use the following to help you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9odKdWySIE&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=27 and Major and Society https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atEc8uQ9pQ&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=28 and Major and Foreign Policy Create a mindmap that examines: • Social liberalism • Anti-establishment culture

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		• Position of women • Race relations Plan an answer to the essay question: ‘Third Wave feminism had little impact on women’s lives’. Assess the validity of this view. (25) Create a timeline of foreign affairs that includes: • The Bruges Speech • Maastricht Treaty • End of the Cold War Bosnia and the Balkans						
12 13.04.25	CRISIS OF IDENTITY, 1920-1945: THE USA AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Use your notes and the textbooks to help you. Read through the five interpretations of FDR below. Annotate them with evidence that could be used to support them. Make it clear which one you most agree with and why. 1. The Great statesman: the wartime myth of Roosevelt presents a picture of a far-sighted statesman, working in close harmony with Winston Churchill, guiding the Western Allies to ultimate victory over the forces of evil. This is not a myth; it is essentially true. 2. The gullible idealist: Roosevelt was putty in the hands of Churchill, who conned him into giving vast quantities of money	NEW LABOUR: LABOUR GOVERNMENTS Use the following to help you: New Labour Governments https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_jA0s62aqw&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=29 and Good Friday Agreement https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3hJWlRmBQ&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=30 Complete the table that examines constitutional change 1997-2007. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area of constitutional change</th><th>Key details</th><th>Consequences</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> Make a mindmap of Gordon Brown’s economic policies 1997-2007. Highlight successes and failures in two separate colours.	Area of constitutional change	Key details	Consequences			
Area of constitutional change	Key details	Consequences						

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and manpower to fight 'Britain's war'.

3. The ruthless realist:
Roosevelt was the opposite of gullible. He drove a hard bargain with Britain over Lend-Lease, and he waited to see if Britain was defeated before acting to help.
4. The diplomatic failure:
Roosevelt could have avoided war with Japan but he made a mess of the diplomatic negotiations. A few sensible concessions on Japanese grievances could have avoided war, and saved the US from fighting two wars at once. He also delayed telling the truth to the American people or to Congress.
5. The devious conspirator:
Roosevelt knew most Americans were isolationist, so he set out to deceive and trick them into a war they did not want. He connived with Churchill to extend help for Britain, and concealed his true intentions until the 1940 election had been safely won.

THE SUPERPOWER, 1945-1975: DOMESTIC POLITICS, THE NEW FRONTIER & THE GREAT SOCIETY

Use your notes and the textbooks to help you.

Make a timeline of events in Northern Ireland. Write a summary that highlights the key changes in policies and outcomes in NI and a judgement on whether the Good Friday Agreement was a success or limited.

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	Create a living graph like; the y axis should be level of success and the x axis time. Mark two lines on it, one for the Democratic Party and one for the Republican Party. Annotate with keys events and explanation of changes in fortune.	
13 20.04.25	THE SUPERPOWER, 1945-1975: ECONOMIC CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENTS Use your notes and the textbooks to help you. Plan an answer to the essay question: ‘American prosperity during the long post-war boom was due to high government spending.’ Assess the validity of this view. (This would also be a good opportunity to practice writing in times conditions – 45 minutes).	NEW LABOUR: CONSERVATIVES IN OPPOSITION Use the following to help you: Conservatives 1997-2007 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xF9aktdWJMs&list=PL6DY9psvTXR_bRdxAWJlZ3x4Uic-Yco&index=28 Create a profile on William Hague and Iain Duncan-Smith that includes details on their leadership and ideology, key policies, key individuals and key divisions in the party. Create a profile on Michael Howard and David Cameron that includes details on their leadership and ideology, key policies, key individuals and key divisions in the party. Make a mindmap that details the key reasons why the Conservatives lost the 2001 General Election, and another mindmap examining the 2005 General Election. Plan an answer to the following question: ‘Thatcher’s legacy accounts for the difficulties of the Conservative Party in the years 1997 to 2007’.

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		Assess the validity of this view. (25)
14 27.04.25	THE SUPERPOWER, 1945-1975: IDEOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, REGIONAL AND ETHNIC DIVISIONS, THE LIMITS OF SOCIAL COHESION & NEW CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS Use your notes and the textbooks to help you. Create a mind map of the key social developments. Include: • Social Divisions – the rise of the Consumer society • The Mass Media • Ideological Divisions • Regional and ethnic divisions • Civil Rights • Social Divisions – women, youth and protest Compare to your social mind map for 1920-1945 and highlight the biggest areas of change (progress) and continuity.	NEW LABOUR: SOCIAL ISSUES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS Use the following to help you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLUkdLeK7NQ&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=32 and Foreign Policy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRsuyL8M4zQ&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwfmAbbkYV1dnWYUycvFOj&index=33 Define the term Multiculturalism. Add examples of Labour's policy. Write a summary explaining whether or not the policy/reforming agenda was a success or failure. Create a mindmap on each of the groups in society and highlight the changes in the Labour era: • Workers • Women • Youth • Race and Immigration Create a timeline of Labour's foreign affairs 1997-2007 that includes: • Attitudes to Europe • 'Special relationship' with the USA • War on Terror Write a summary that explains the impact of the Iraq war on Britain's position in the world by 2007.

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15 04.05.25	THE SUPERPOWER, 1945-1975: US INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THE COLD WAR Use your notes and the textbooks to help you. Draw a living graph showing the changing fortunes of the USA and USSR during the Cold War. The y axis should be level of success and the x axis should be time. Use two different lines for the USA and the USSR. Annotate with key events and a justification of notable changes in fortune. Plan an answer to the following question: How successful were attempts by US governments, in the years 1955 to 1975 to reduce Cold War tensions? [25 marks]	EXAM PRACTICE Complete this past exam paper for Paper 2: 2020 Past Paper https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/sample-papers-and-mark-schemes/2020/november/AQA-70422S-QP-NOV20.PDF Do this in timed conditions without notes if you can.
16 11.05.25	THE SUPERPOWER, 1945-1975: THE USA's PLACE AS A SUPERPOWER IN 1975 Use your notes and the textbooks to help you. How far was the USA a superpower in name only? Create a table outlining the arguments and evidence for and against this statement. How far had the USA come since 1865? In a format of your choosing identify the major changes and continuing in: • Politics • The Economy	Revise America



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	• Society • Foreign Policy	
17 18.05.25	Exam on Tuesday 19th May (PM)	Your choice of tasks
May Half Term	Revise Britain – you'll have done your America exam!	Your choice of tasks