



# Preparation for A Level History



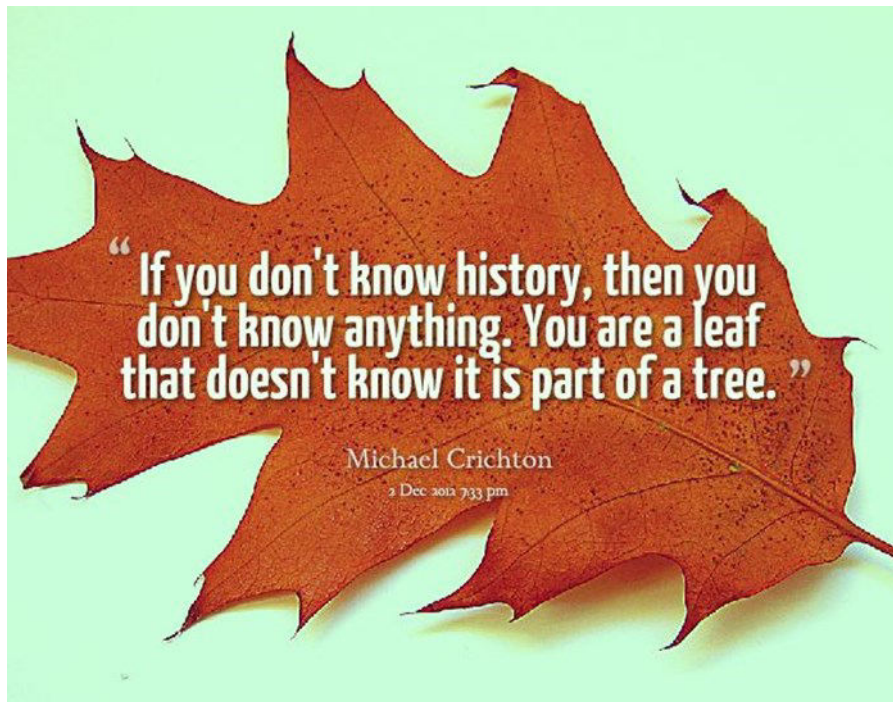
Thank you for choosing A Level History!

To help you prepare for A-level, this booklet includes a variety of activities that will give you a head start for September.

We stress that not everything has to be completed but it would definitely help prepare for you for your studies of our A Level course here at TRA.

We look forward to welcoming you in September to begin your A Level journey!

Best wishes,  
Mrs Kenway and Mr Shaw



# Welcome to the A Level History Course!

There are 4 units we study for A Level History over two years, but for now we will focus on the units of work we cover in Year 12. Here is a reminder of the units of work you will study in Year 12:

## Unit 1: The USA 1917-96:

This is a 'breadth' study of the USA throughout the 20th century from their participation in the First World War. Many themes are explored, including war, economic depression, civil rights, media and technology. There is a separate case study about the Reagan Presidency of 1981-89 and students will analyse historians' interpretations of Reagan as President.



## Unit 2: India 1914-47:

This is a 'depth' study about the 'jewel in the crown' of the British Empire; India. We will examine why this colony was so important to Britain economically, politically and strategically. The role of India in both world wars is examined, along with rising nationalism and British attempts to grant reform to India. Finally, we will examine why Britain partitioned India in 1947.



# Reading List Tasks:

If you do manage to get hold of these texts, read, then summarise the key points in one of the following ways:

- Write a review of the book, outlining which were the most useful sections and whether you enjoyed the book/ why/ why not.
- List any key terms from the text in a vocabulary list, researching their meanings (if not clear from the text) and recording these.
- Create a picture mind-map of the key ideas. Use doodles and images to illustrate these. For a guide to mind-mapping, see this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g>

## Suggested Reading List (Books)

### Official Course Textbook:

Searching for Rights and Freedoms in the 20th Century by Rosemary Rees, Jane Shuter and Professor William Beinart, Pearson Education (2015)

- This is the textbook we will use in school. Although you will be provided with an online copy of this textbook, it might be useful to purchase this title for yourself. There maybe second hand copies to purchase online.

### Unit 1: The USA 1917-96:

My Revision Notes: Edexcel AS/A-level History: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917-96 by Alan Farmer, Hodder Education (2018)

Access to History: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917-96 for Edexcel by Vivienne Sanders, Hodder Education (2018)

### Unit 2: India 1914-47:

Access to History: Indian Independence 1914-64 Second Edition, Tim Leadbeater, Hodder Education (2015)

Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India, Lawrence James, Abacus (2010)

## Visual resources:

Watch the videos below, choosing one to focus on for your task. Write a list of discussion points/ questions it raises. Choose (at least) one of your questions and draft at least three possible answers that might be given.

### Unit 1: The USA 1917-96:

Crash Course US History (found on You Tube)

Videos #30 - #45 are relevant for our course. Type in 'crash course US history' into the search bar on You Tube, click on the first video and scroll down the right hand side for the relevant videos.

Eyes on the Prize <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ts10IVzUDVw>

Good documentary about the civil rights movement.

The Century: America's Time (found on You Tube)

A series of programmes about the USA over the 20th century. Type in 'the century America's time' into the search bar on You Tube, click on the first video and scroll down the right hand side for the relevant videos.

BBC Storyville 'Ronald Reagan' [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDf7\\_YXF\\_So](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDf7_YXF_So)

Comprehensive documentary about the Regan era— a biographical look at Reagan, but also explores the historians' debate about his presidency.

### Unit 2: India 1914-47:

The British Empire in Colour (India) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhKYg641K3c>

Contemporary film footage restored in colour, documenting the occupation of India by the British during the time of the Raj.

Jeremy Paxman documentary 'Empire' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7GOh8qLLwQ>

An extract from his documentary about how the British ruled in India during the Raj.

Amritsar Massacre <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pDezGwGt28>

On the 100 year anniversary of the Amritsar Massacre (in 2019), BBC Newsnight investigates what happened and whether the British should formally apologise to India for the massacre.

Partition: The Day India Burned <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZS40U5yFpc>

Compelling documentary about the reasons for independence of India, and the horrific conclusion to partition of India and Pakistan.

## Online resources:

BBC Bitesize—aimed at GCSE students, but useful for a simple overview of topics.  
Cold War / Vietnam War content for USA Unit:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwbysg8>

Seneca Learning

<https://www.senecalearning.com/blog/a-level-history-revision-everything-you-need/>

Revision World

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-revision/history-gcse-level>

History Channel

<https://www.history.co.uk/>

### Podcasts:

History Rocks (Melanie Vance)

Developed for AQA students, but some relevant content for the USA Unit.

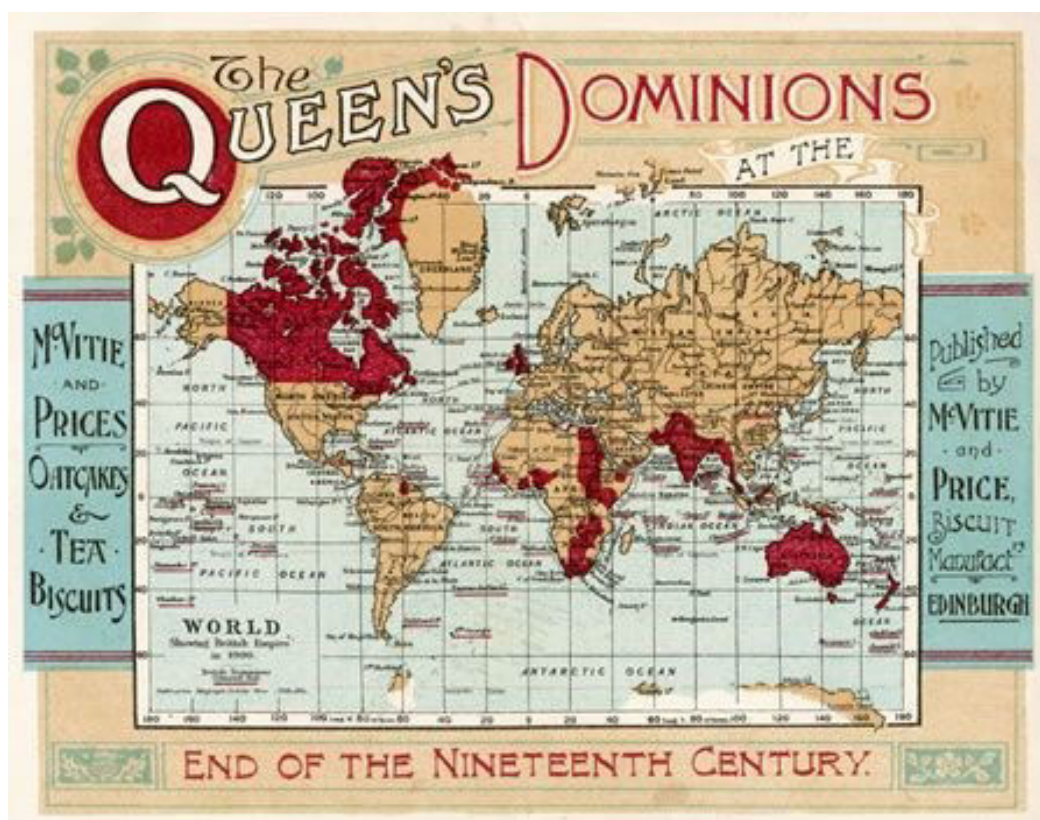
Revise A Level History (Seneca)

One relevant podcast about India 'The British Raj' - there is a link to the full course.

# To get you started...

It would be useful to get an understanding of the following ready for September:

- The US Constitution, including the function of government
- The Cold War and the USA's part in this
- The British Empire in 1900, including membership and advantages for Britain
- The British Raj, how India was ruled; the role of the viceroy, the Secretary of State and the Indian Civil Service, including the relationship with the Princes



# Essay Questions

Only if you feel confident after your initial reading!

Here are some examples of A Level examination questions. They are all worth 20 marks.

## Unit 1: The USA 1917-96:

How far do you agree that the personality of the president was the most significant factor in changes in the presidency in the years 1917-80?

*Present evidence to show that the personality of the president mattered—but be careful to weigh that against other elements that affected the presidency.*

How far had legal action advanced the position of black Americans between 1917 and 1955?

*Consider what the legislation says and how that helped. Also consider previous legislation (such as the Plessy case) that might restrict advancement. Also, consider the differences between legislation and implementation.*

## Unit 2: India 1914-47

To what extent was Gandhi responsible for the failure of the London-based Round Table Conferences held in the years 1930-32?

*Consider the role Gandhi had in these conferences, along with the leader of the Muslim League; Muhammed Ali Jinnah, as well as the role of the British government.*

How accurate is it to say that the Second World War was the most significant factor driving Indian nationalism in the years 1935-45?

*Consider the ways in which the aims and methods of the different nationalist groups changed during the period, and the extent to which this was due to the war.*