



Transition Materials for A Level History: C20th America



Introduction

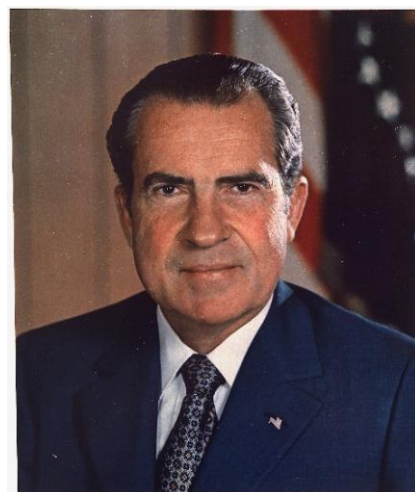
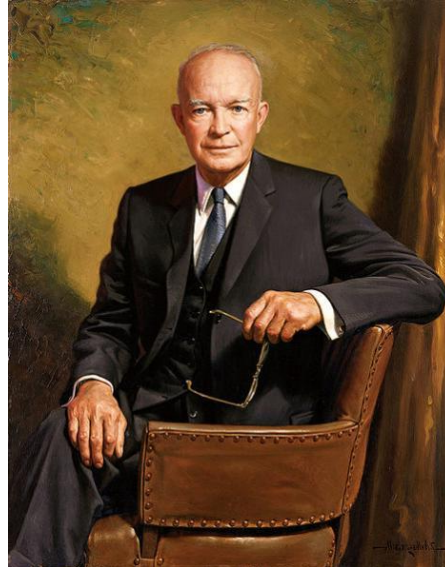
It is great that you are considering studying History at A Level.

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!

Contents

1. Reading List
2. Independent Research
3. Required Knowledge and Skills
4. Baseline Assessment
5. The world is out there



1. Reading List

Fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Of Mice and Men</i>, John Steinbeck• <i>Grapes of Wrath</i>, 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>Cold War: For Forty-Five Years the World Held its Breath</i>, J. Isaacs and T. Downing (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)
Film Resources	Saving Private Ryan (1998) JFK (1991) Thirteen Days (2000) We Were Soldiers (2002) The Butler (2013)

2. Independent Research

- 1) Create a timeline outlining the events of the Cold War.
- 2) Create an A3 information sheet, with facts and images, of the following events: Pearl Harbour, the D-Day Landings and the nuclear bomb dropped at Hiroshima.
- 3) Create an A3 information sheet, with facts and images, of the following American presidents: Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.
- 4) Find 5 images associated with the Cold War. 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.

Suggested websites:

<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.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/the-cold-war/what-was-the-cold-war/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history>

<http://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>

<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>

3. Required Knowledge and Skills

- 1) Find and file a map of the United States of America. Ensure that it shows the divide between northern and southern states.
- 2) Analyse the American Constitution; what are its strengths and weaknesses?
- 3) 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.
- 4) Research two key events in American history before 1945: The American Civil War and the Westward Expansion. Following your research, create two A3 fact sheets with the following key information: What? When? Why? Consequences?
- 5) Research and create a fact sheet detailing the powers of the president before and after 1945. Research the main American political parties. What were their main viewpoints in 1945?
- 6) Create a timeline outlining the events of the Cold War.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Research and ensure that you understand the different between social, economic, political, religious and international history. Create a reference sheet for future use.
- 9) Research and ensure that you understand the differences between Capitalism and Communism. Create a reference sheet for future use.
- 10) 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	
Great Migration	
Executive Order	
Social mobility	
'Iron Curtain'	
USSR/ Soviet Union	
Containment	
Isolationist	
Brinkmanship	
Inflation	
Baby Boom	
States' rights	
State of the Union Address	
Lynching	
HUAC	
McCarthyism	
Appeasement	
De jure/ De facto segregation	
Ghettoisation	

4. Baseline Assessment

'The American presidency held all power in 1945'. Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

Answer the above essay question.

You should aim to write at least 3 sides of A4.

Your teacher will be looking for the following:

- A balanced answer
- Arguments supported by precise historical knowledge
- Well-structured paragraphs
- A clear judgement that is sustained throughout your essay

5. The World is Out There

- 1) Check your local museums and visit one that outlines military history. Look, in particular, for WW2, The Korean War, The Vietnam War. The best museum to visit will be The Imperial War Museum, London or Duxford. The American WW2 cemetery is in Cambridge.
- 2) Watch an American news channel to familiarise yourself with American vocabulary and current affairs. Look closely for news items associated with the upcoming election.
- 3) Buy an American newspaper to familiarise yourself with American vocabulary and current affairs. Look closely for news items associated with the upcoming election.
- 4) Use YouTube to watch documentaries on American history from 1945-80.
- 5) Watch *Mississippi Burning* and/ or *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- 6) Read any of the fiction novels listed on the reading list earlier in this document.
- 7) If you are local to London, visit the O2 exhibition on Muhammad Ali. It is there until August.
- 8) 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>

AQA Unit 2Q The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

However, this booklet could also be used to introduce

- AQA Unit 2R The Cold War, c1945–1991
- Edexcel Paper 1, Option 1F: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917– 96
- Edexcel Paper 2, Option 2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge
- Edexcel Paper 3, Option 39.1: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850– 2009
- OCR Unit Y222 - The Cold War in Asia 1945–1993
- OCR Unit Y223 – The Cold War in Europe 1941–1995
- OCR Unit Y319 – Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992