

Year 12 transition tasks for A-level History

When you start A-level History in September you will be studying two different topics:

- Unit 1 The Age of the Crusades c1071-1204
- Unit 2 The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007

The transition work below should take you 2 hours for each side of the course.

Unit 1- The Age of the Crusades

1. Watch the following video about Islam:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gg6ju-IHCwU>

Make notes on the key beliefs of Islam

2. Read the following article:

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/crusades-complete-history>

then create a timeline overview of key dates from 1095 to 1204.

3. In A-Level History we expect students to read around each subject before the lesson, so that lesson time can be spent discussing ideas and exploring the bigger concepts. To help you prepare for your lessons in the first week, please read the topic sheet below. In the left column you need to give each paragraph a subheading and then in the right column you need to summarise each paragraph in one bullet point.



Sub-heading	Topic Sheet: Introduction: Crusades	Bullet point summary
Boundaries of mind	People in the middle ages saw society as being organised into three levels: those who fought; those who prayed and those who worked, a system ordained by God. This structure with the king at the top and the peasants at the bottom was a simplification as society was made up different types of people from farmer, merchants, and tradesmen. Historians called this structure the 'feudal system'. The arose out of the need for people to be defended during Viking raids. Knights were granted fiefs (land) in return for protection. A system of honour and allegiances was created were knights owed service to their overlords. The papacy was also a central power in the Western Europe. The Pope, otherwise known as the Bishop of Rome, had become the most important person in the church.	
Physical boundaries What was the Muslim World?	In the last quarter of the eleventh century Christian Europe was bordered by Muslim states from Spain in the west across the whole of North Africa through to Palestine. Founded in the seventh century Islam had spread rapidly from Arabia. However, it was the battle of Manzikert that created a flash point when the Byzantine empire was defeated allowing the Seljuk Turks to take control of Anatolia.	
What was the Byzantine empire?	The Byzantine empire had grown out of the old eastern Roman empire. It gradually had become more Greek. The capital of the empire was Constantinople who had it built. It was the most important Christian city after Rome. The religion of the Byzantine empire was Orthodox Christianity which had split from Roman Catholic	

<p>What was the Holy Roman Empire?</p>	<p>Christianity in 1054. It was the Byzantine empire that stood against the expansion of Islamic Empire. By the eleventh century it had become weakened.</p> <p>The Holy Roman empire had been created in 800 AD when Pope Leo III had been rescued by Charlemagne, the king of the Franks. In recognition of this Leo gave Charlemagne the title of 'Holy Roman Emperor'. This title was the most important title in the context of western Europe. It gave the Holy Roman Emperor the task of defending the papacy. They also had some influence over who should become the next Pope.</p> <p>The Papacy was an important institution during the eleventh century. The papacy had been going through a process of reform with a more consistent approach encouraging people to live better Christian lives with more prayer and listening to sermons. Key ideas that the papacy wanted to reform within the church was simony (the buying and selling of church offices) and clerical marriage (not allowing married clergy). The papacy also wanted to have more power over the secular rulers especially in decisions about what should happen in the churches. This eventually develop into the Investiture Contest in 1071 when Pope Gregory VII declared that the Pope was more powerful than any secular ruler. This lead to Gregory clashing with Henry IV over control of the church. The spark for the Investiture Contest was a disagreement over who should be elected as Archbishop of Milan. This caused a war between the papacy and Henry IV called the Investiture Contest. Eventually Gregory was able to force Henry to beg for forgiveness at town in Italy called Canossa. Henry recognised Gregory VII as his overlord making him the pope more powerful than the emperor.</p>	
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Unit 2 The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007

1. This first activity focuses on an introduction to political parties, such as the Labour and the Conservative Party. This is because Unit 2 refers to these parties and how they shape Britain, all the way through Year 12 and year 13, and therefore we need to begin by developing your understanding.

Watch the 2 videos by Dan Snow (they are a little outdated).

<https://youtu.be/U3fi-lhelrY>

https://youtu.be/3A_nChO1G8

For each video, bullet point the following:

- How the party started
- Who key players were in the development of the party
- How the World Wars impacted the party
- Challenge - In your own words, describe how the parties have each evolved over time.

2. In A-Level History we expect students to read around each subject before the lesson, so that lesson time can be spent discussing ideas and exploring the bigger concepts. To help you prepare for your lessons in the first week, please read the topic sheet below. In the left column you need to give each paragraph a subheading and then in the right column you need to summarise each paragraph in one bullet point.

Sub-heading	Topic Sheet: Introduction: Government and Parliament in Britain, 1951	Bullet point summary
<p><i>The Post-War consensus between Labour and Conservative</i></p>	<p>Britain in 1951 had two main political parties, the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. The vast majority of voters voted for either the Conservative or the Labour Party. During the period 1951-1979, as you will find out, the actual economic policies of both parties were very similar. The Labour Party in 1945 radically transformed the way governments dealt with the economy and society of the nation, and the Conservatives, leading to what has been called 'the post-war consensus', accepted this.</p> <p>The Conservative Party was traditionally in favour of capitalism (private enterprise and business controlling the economy) and the government having less of a role in controlling the economy. It believed in generally lower taxes, arguing that money was best used when spent by individuals, rather than government. It was seen as the party that defended privilege and wealth. Middle and upper class people traditionally voted for the Conservative Party, although lots of working class people did as well. It had been in government for most of the 20th Century up to 1951, either on its own or as part of a coalition, and saw itself as the 'natural party of government'. It was a very patriotic party, which attracted many people (including its many working class voters). Although Labour painted the Conservatives as uncaring and unconcerned about social justice, the Conservative Party had passed lots of reforms in the past to help the less fortunate. This was seen as 'paternalism' (the wealthy caring for the less fortunate in society), and was called one-nation Conservatism. One the political spectrum, the Conservatives were centre right-wing.</p>	

	<p>The Labour Party was formed in the 1890s as a party to represent the manual working class. It espoused socialism (the belief that business and corporations and the 'means of production' are mostly controlled by the government as opposed to individuals in order to ensure fairness and equality). A government taking over industries and businesses is known as nationalisation. This meant the Labour Party were seen as left-wing. The 'far left' of the Labour Party were Marxists (followers of Karl Marx who helped to invent the concept of Communism) and believed that all the means of production should be owned by the government. The Labour party had only got into power a few times since its creation, and when it was in power it tended to be a lot more moderate. It didn't practice revolutionary socialism in practice (it didn't take over most businesses for example). However, in Clause IV the Labour party constitution, it was committed to 'common ownership of the means of production'. The Labour party had always been divided by between the 'right' of the party, who were generally the party leaders and wanted the party to be more moderate so it could win support and get elected, and the 'left' of the party, who wanted the party to be a lot more radical and socialist. The far left of the party also tended to be anti-American and pro-USSR because the USSR was Communist. The party generally approved of higher taxes, especially on people who were wealthier, to pay for government programmes to help poorer people.</p> <p>The working class traditionally supported the Labour party, but the Labour party also gained lots of votes from middle class public sector workers and middle and upper class people who believed in socialism and/or thought the Labour party was a party who cared more for the poorer in society.</p> <p>The Labour party had a lot of support from trade unions, organisations set up to represent and organise workers. In fact, when it came to deciding on Labour party policy at Labour party conferences the trade unions had a block vote. This made the leaders of the unions very powerful, because they would vote on behalf of their members. Trade unions had a big influence in deciding party policy.</p> <p>The Liberal Party, which had once been massive, were now very small and did not attract many votes. Their political viewpoints varied, but generally they were in the 'centre' of politics.</p>	
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Activity 3- The official start date of the Making of Modern Britain course is 1951 but in order to fully understand the economic, political and social situation you need some context to post-war Britain from 1945. One of the most significant developments of this period was known as 'the creation of the Welfare State'. For this activity you need to use the resources below to create an information PowerPoint on the Welfare State. You must include the following:

- What is meant by the welfare state?
- What was the Beveridge Report?
- What were the 'five giants' of society?
- Why was the NHS set up and what did it aim to achieve?
- What did the Labour Party implement Beveridge Report and the Welfare state? Give specific examples.
- How did the Conservative view the creation of a Welfare State?

Resources you could use:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42182013>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00gj66j>

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Birth-of-the-NHS/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-44560590>

Look at these mini podcasts: remedies of war, doctors revolt and free specs and

teeth: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b7mxng/episodes/downloads>