**A Level History: Transition Work – Year 11**

In Year 12, we study *Democracies in Change: Britain and the USA in the 20th Century* (Edexcel). The course is divided into two papers:

* Paper 1: Britain 1918–1997
* Paper 2: USA 1955–1992

Your summer tasks are designed to introduce key historical knowledge, develop your research skills, and get you thinking critically about major historical developments.

**Task 1: Engage with History in the media**

**How do I do this?** Watch or read history-related content once a week. Below are some ideas of media that you can watch. You can choose from:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Films**: *Made in Dagenham* (2010), *Iron Lady* (2011), *The Deal* (2003), *Pride* (2014), *Spirit of ’45* (2013), *A United Kingdom* (2016) | **YouTube Documentaries (Britain)**: [Britain in 1940](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgnGprRwIY8) [The Thatcher Years](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6L6kelnvwg) [Creation of the Welfare State](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r30XDrcIqOY) | **YouTube Documentaries (America)**: [America’s Time - 1953–60: Happy Daze](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6dsc5p5-3A) [1960–64: Poisoned Dreams](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93iBar-VrqA) [1965–70: Unpinned](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jET2qR8Y-Ng) |

**What do I need to do?** Write a short reflection (about half a page) on what you watched or read, what you learned from it and how it might link to the topics we’ll study. Aim to complete **2 media reflections** over the summer. Include:

**Task 2: Historical Research – Political Leaders**

Each biography should include:

* Personal and political background
* Key moments in their political career
* Major successes or failures
* (Challenge) Include historian or political commentary if you can

Get used to researching and forming overviews – a key A level skill.

**What to do:** Research and create one-page biographies for:

* **British Prime Ministers (1918–1997)**
* **American Presidents (1955–1993)**

You don’t have to do all of them over the summer! Choose **at least two from each country** to complete now – we’ll build the rest in class.

**Task 3: Explore a Historical Issue that Interests You**

Choose one historical issue related to either Britain or the USA in the 20th century. It can be anything from the specification but if you want you can choose from the following list: The creation of the NHS, Civil Rights Movement in the USA, the impact of WWII on Britain, the Women’s movement (in Britain or America), or Thatcherism.

Write a **one-page reflection** that includes:

* A summary of the issue – key facts and where you found them
* Why it interests you – does it connect to your own experiences or beliefs?
* How the issue impacted society or political change

**Your To Do List:**

[ ] 2 History media reflections (films, documentaries, etc.) [ ] At least 2 British PM biographies

[ ] At least 2 American President biographies [ ] 1 page reflection on a historical issue you're passionate about