

HISTORY DEPARTMENT
A LEVEL HISTORY
YEAR 11 TO YEAR 12 TRANSITION SUMMER HOLIDAY HOMEWORK



The AQA A-level History qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. Our qualifications will help them to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging transition assignments created by our History department are designed to provide our students with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A-level historians. There are two sets of transition assignments for our budding young Historians including; Unit 1c-The Tudors, 1485-1603 and Unit 2q-American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945-1980. Students will be expected to complete these assignments in advance of their first A Level History lesson.

Unit 1c – The Tudors, 1485-1603

Studying the Tudors at A Level will be unlike any of the modern history that you have studied for your GCSEs. The Tudors ruled England over 400 years ago, and the world they lived in would seem completely alien to us today. It is not just the visible differences of technological advancement, but an entirely different way of life. The Tudors lived in an England where women were considered by science and law to be inferior, where the wealthy and noble were considered inherently ‘better’ than the poor, and where the church and God still had a major influence on every aspect of daily life. Tudor England would have seemed much larger to those living there at the time. An average person could easily live their entire life without going further than the nearest town, and in an age when only the wealthy rode horses, the journey from London to York that takes two hours on a train now would take several days and be wrought with danger.

To understand the complex and cutthroat world of Tudor politics you must have some understanding of how the Tudor world worked and how their beliefs differed from our own. Ideals such as democracy, freedom of speech and equality, that are so important in 21st Century Britain, were completely unheard of in Tudor England. In order to be successful in this course you must be able to step inside a Tudor brain and see things from their point of view. As such, your Summer Holiday homework will be the following:

Research and produce a detailed mind map on each of the following:

- The government in Tudor England (the monarch, Parliament etc);
- The importance of the church in the Tudor period;
- The role of the gentry and nobility in the Tudor period;
- The role of women in the Tudor period;

We will spend the first few lessons in September discussing these topics, so please come prepared. To get you started:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/tudors/religion/>
<http://www.historyonthenet.com/tudors/tudorsmain.htm>
<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/tudor-england/women-in-tudor-england/>
<http://www.tudors.org/as-a2-level/>

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT
A LEVEL HISTORY
YEAR 11 TO YEAR 12 TRANSITION SUMMER HOLIDAY HOMEWORK**



Unit 2q –American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945-1980

This provides students with the opportunity to flex their modern historian muscle. It challenges students to explore American prosperity during the post Second World War era and then critically evaluate its success. This option provides for a study in depth of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity brought them the ‘American dream’ but the prosperity was not shared by all, and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the ‘American dream’ was a reality. It explores concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities and federal versus states’ rights. It also encourages students to reflect on the nature of democracy in a pluralist society, political protest and the power of the media.

As such, your Summer Holiday homework will be the following:

- 1. Click on the link below and use the information to create a diagram that explains how the American Government works.**

Extension – Examine the hyperlinks to build up more detail of key concepts.

<https://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government>

- 2. Examine each of the following video clips and create a presidential profile from Frank Delano Roosevelt, and Harry S. Truman (2-A4 pages, size 12 font each)**

Roosevelt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtI6lnTd6OM>

Truman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmqpGWhYOCE>

You will find this site very useful. You can find detailed information about the individual residents and their policies very clearly set out.

<https://millercenter.org/president>

The profiles must include the following:

- Background
- Ideology
- Achievements
- Key events and individuals who influenced their career

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT
A LEVEL HISTORY
YEAR 11 TO YEAR 12 TRANSITION SUMMER HOLIDAY HOMEWORK**



3. Create an Essay Plan for the following Question:

*President Truman was a much more effective leader than FDR'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (25 marks)*

Try to discuss the following in your essay:

- The role of domestic policy;
- The role of foreign policy;
- The social standing of different groups (African Americans /Women/Native Americans/ etc);
- The economic standing of different groups (working class, middle class, rich etc.).

To do this effectively I suggest you start to look at what was effective in each of the policy areas and what was less effective in the policy areas. You should then be able to form a judgement with supported reasoning.