Clitheroe Royal Grammar Sixth Form: Transition Pack

Welcome to the History Department

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the Sixth Form.

This Transition Pack contains information to support your transition from GCSE to A Level study.

Please read all the documents ready to begin Year 12:

- Independent Learning in History
- History Introductory Task

✓ **Read the Subject Information Sheet** which is available here: CRGS Sixth Form Subject Sheet - History

✓ **Download the exam board specification** which is available here: Edexcel A Level History

✓ **Read the section called 'Qualification at a Glance'. We will follow ROUTE H Democracies in Change and Britain and the USA in Twentieth Century.**

✓ Some of these resources will become more useful when you have moved further through the course, such as the A Level specification, so store them where you can revisit them over the next 2 years.

✓ Don't worry if some of the work sounds challenging. A Level work is more difficult than GCSE work after all. Your teachers will be supporting you through this transition. Please talk to us if you are unsure about any aspect of the course.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs M N Quraishi - Head of Learning, History

History A Level
Introductory Tasks

Paper 1: Britain Transformed (1918-97)

On the next page are 10 photographs/images of key moments in 20th century British history.

Your first task is to identify what they are and to place them in chronological order by allocating them a number between 1 and 10 (1 being the earliest and 10 the latest). You may need to use the internet or get help from friends/family to identify the events!

Do not worry if you do not know all the events, just try your best!

BONUS TASK: Once you have done this, see if you can identify which year(s) each image relates to between 1918-79. Write this down next to each image.

Please bring your work to your first lesson.

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Sex Discrimination Act 1975

1975 CHAPTER 65

An Act to render unlawful certain kinds of sex discrimination and discrimination on the ground of marriage, and establish a Commission with the function of

Paper 2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

Read the following paragraphs then answer the questions in the table. Please bring your work to your lesson.

URBANISATION AND AFFLUENCE IN THE USA IN THE 1950s

POST-WAR AFFLUENCE

After the end of the Second World War and the Republican dominance of Congress in the elections of 1948, American entered into an economic boom that would last for nearly 23 years. Taxes were lowered from their high wartime rates and people found that they had dispensable income to spend. The subsequent spending spree on new homes, cars and appliances stimulated the economy and led to a drastic period of change for the nation.

THE CHANGING NATURE OF CITIES

The new pressures upon manufacturers to meet the demands of the spending spree meant that wartime munitions factories, previously used to mass-produce arms and weapons, found new employment in churning out the household accessories that were now in popular demand. The rapid expansion of the industry offered manufacturing jobs that were well paid, and offered those who occupied them (referred to as blue-collar workers) a method by which they might advance their social standing and wealth, meaning they could join the rapidly expanding ranks of middle class Americans. Industrialisation was occurring predominantly in the cities, and so rural inhabitants (mostly black agricultural workers) moved into the cities in search of new and better paid work. This supply and demand trade soon led to cities becoming hubs of industry and commerce, boasting large new shopping centres that replaced the old smaller local stores.

EXPANSION OF THE SUBURBS

As black rural inhabitants moved into the cities, the increasingly large white-middle class moved out. The freedom of mobility brought about by the availability of automobiles meant that men could now commute to their jobs easily. This freed up middle class families to move out of the cramped inner cities and out into the newly developed suburbs. Families now had more room to house extra children and this nurtured the baby boom of the 1950s. Because of this middle-class population of suburbia rocketed and by 1960 suburban inhabitants represented a third of the country's entire population. Housing this new contingent was a massive undertaking; abodes were mass-produced cheaply and efficiently by companies such as that of William Levitt, who converted huge swathes of barren land into "Levittowns" ready to be immediately sold and inhabited by waves of people moving out from the cities. These "Levittowns" were almost exclusively available only for white middle-class buyers, and it is for this reason that the expansion of the suburbs in the 1950s, sometimes referred to as the "urban sprawl", has also become known as the "white flight".

GROWING OWNERSHIP AND USAGE OF CARS

One of the products most in demand in the spending spree was the automobile. Technological development brought about during the Second World War sped up the production and quality of consumer motor vehicles. Cars, that had previously been expensive luxury items, could now be mass-produced at an affordable price. By 1960, 72% of consumers owned their own car. America could finally realise in the 1950s what Henry Ford had dreamed of in the 1910s: that any man with a good job should be able to own his own car. Americans began to see their cars as an extension of their personality and driving

soon became a popular pastime. Styles became far flashier, with cars becoming longer, thinner, flatter and overall sleeker in design. The abundance of cars impacted upon American culture, and prompted the emergence of drive-through restaurants, drive-in cinemas and motels. By 1958, there were more than 67 million cars registered in America, a figure that had more than doubled in merely 10 years.

HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT

The viability of the suburbs was dependent upon the mobility that cars had offered to families. It was important that the family breadwinner could drive his new automobile to work easily and so local and state governments invested in constructing large tracts of new roads to link the suburban residents to their jobs in the city. The federal government provided financial support for these developments. In 1956, it funded over 42,000 miles of interstate highway. The development of the highways marked the rising importance of the motor industry in America. The prominence of the motor industry coincided with the deterioration of the former master of public transport, the railways, that had once wielded a frighteningly powerful influence over American politics, but that was now in drastic decline.

WHITE-COLLAR JOBS

“White-collar” work referred to a middle-class office or clerical job as opposed to the working-class “blue-collar” industrial counterpart. The distinction between the two stemmed from the typical apparel worn be each; the white shirt and tie of the office, or the blue overalls of manual labour. The rapidly growing suburban class was reflective of the shift in the composition of the American workforce. Job opportunities in America changed from being predominantly manual labour to the so called “service industry”, meaning services such as accounting or administration that produced paperwork rather than a physical product, such as mining, farming or manufacture. This can be seen as an employment trend that shifted focus from manual labour to mental labour. Because of this shift, and the growth of new businesses that relied only on white-collar workers, the mid 1950s was the first time that white-collar workers actually outnumbered their blue-collared counterparts. The advance of technology was fast replacing the role blue-collar workers played in the manufacturing process, and the growth of bigger businesses after the war presented mass opportunities for white collar workers in clerical positions.

CONSUMERISM AND DOMESTIC TECHNOLOGY

Many of the everyday household appliances that we are familiar with today saw their advent in the spending sprees of the affluent 1950s. Refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, freezers and washing machines filled up the spacious new suburban homes. Television sets were the most popular of these new technologies and they saw an explosion in sales figures. By 1960, there were 50 million “high quality” sets with nine out of ten homes owning one. The rapidity with which these technologies advanced drastically altered the quality of life; people were enjoying privileges that only the very wealthy had been able to afford merely 50 years ago, and even some that they could not even have dreamt of ever obtaining! As a result of this, popular culture centred on science and the future: cars began to resemble rocket ships with large tail fins and streamlined designs. The focus was ever on the newer, faster and better consumer products.

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URBANISATION AND AFFLUENCE IN THE USA IN THE 1950s

NAME _____ Year 12

1) For what reason did American people find they had more money to spend from 1948 onwards?	
2) What did most Americans do with this new affluence?	
3) What were the munitions factories of the Second World War now used as?	
4) Who moved to the new cities? Why did they move there?	
5) Who increasingly moved out of the cities? Where did they move to?	
6) How were people able to move and still keep their jobs in the city?	

7) What were “Levittowns”? Who were they exclusively available for?	
8) What was the baby boom? What was its cause?	
9) What was one of the products most in demand during the spending spree? How had the Second World War affected its production?	
10) How did car ownership impact upon American culture?	
11) Why was it important for the families of the suburbs to own a car? What did the Americian Government do to make this easier?	
12) What did the success of the car industry cause the decline of? How did this reflect a shift in power and influence?	
13) Define both “white-collar” and “blue-collar” workers. Why were they referred to as such?	

14) How was there a shift in employment in America in the 1950s?	
15) What was the most popular new example of domestic technology? Give an example of how popular these items had become by 1960.	
16) How did the rapid advance of technology affect society? How did it influence popular culture?	