



## Welcome to the Sixth Form - History Information

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/>

### Paper 1, Option 1F: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c.1917-96

**(30% A-Level) - 3 lessons per week.**

#### Overview

This option comprises a study in breadth, in which students will learn about the dramatic political, economic and social transformation of the USA in the twentieth century, an era that saw the USA challenged by the consequences of political, economic and social inequalities at home and of its involvement in international conflict.

The focus of study is on developments and changes over a broad timescale and so the content is presented as themes spanning a significant duration: 1917-80. This option also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question, which is contextualised by, and runs on from, the themes: what impact the Reagan presidency had on the USA in the years 1981-96.

#### **1. The changing political environment, 1917-80**

- **A changing presidency:** the rise and decline of Republicanism to 1933; the influence of Roosevelt; changing styles of presidential leadership, 1945-72; a decline in confidence, 1968-80.
- **Influences on the political landscape:** from rugged individualism to New Deal ideas in the 1920s and 30s; the Red Scares and anti-communism, 1917-80; liberalism, counter-culture and the conservative reaction, c.1960-80.
- **The impact of war on domestic politics:** the reasons for a return to 'normalcy' and a commitment to isolationism, 1917-41; US emergence as a Cold War superpower from 1941; the impact of involvement in Korea and Vietnam.

#### **2. The quest for civil rights, 1917-80**

- **Black American civil rights, c.1917-55:** life in the South and the impact of northern migration, 1917-32; the impact of the New Deal, the Second World War and the Truman presidency; from legal challenge to direct action, 1917-55.
- **Black American civil rights, c.1955-80:** changing patterns and approaches, 1955-68, including southern-based campaigning, the emergence of Black Power and King's northern strategy; the impact of civil rights legislation: achievements and limits to success, 1955-80.

- **The search for minority rights, 1960-80:** the reasons for, and nature of, Native American and hispanic American campaigns; the emergence of the gay rights movement; achievements, and limits to success, of minority campaigns.

### **3. Society and culture in change, 1917-80**

- **The changing position of women, 1917-80:** impact of the Roaring Twenties, Great Depression and New Deal on women; impact of the Second World War and suburban life, 1941-60; emergence of the women's liberation movement and its achievements; extent of women's advancement, 1961-80.
- **The impact of immigration, 1917-80:** the nature of, and response to, immigration in the 1920s; the impact on urban life, 1919-41; the impact of the Second World War, government policy and its consequences, 1941-80.
- **The influence of popular culture and news media:** the social impact of cinema, popular music and radio, 1917-50; the social impact of television from the 1950s; the influence of broadcast news, 1920-80.

### **4. The changing quality of life, 1917-80**

- **Economic influences:** impact of boom, bust and recovery, 1917-41; the impact of the Second World War, post-war affluence and growth, 1941-69; the challenges of the 1970s.
- **Changing living standards:** fluctuations in the standard of living, 1917-41; the impact of the Second World War and the growth of a consumer society, 1941-60; living standards, 1961-80, including the impact of anti-poverty policies and economic divisions.
- **Leisure and travel:** the reasons for, and the impact of, increased leisure time, 1917-80; the growth of spectator sports; the development, and influence, of a car-owning culture and improved air travel.

## **Paper 2, Option 2F.1: India, c.1914-48: the road to independence**

### ***(20% of A-Level) - 2 lessons per week***

This option comprises a study in depth of the transition of the Indian sub-continent from a colony to independence. The gaining of Indian independence influenced both the nature of civil rights campaigning and the search for national self-determination throughout the world. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the changing relationship between Britain and India from the outbreak of the First World War to the achievement of independence for the Indian sub-continent, and of the reasons for this, with particular reference to Indian nationalism.

### **1. The First World War and its impact on British India, 1914-20**

- **India in 1914:** political geography; the British Raj; Indian society and religion; importance of India to Britain; British and Indian attitudes towards each other; Indian nationalism.
- **India and the First World War:** response to the outbreak of war; Indian military and economic contribution; economic impact in India and consequences for British rule.

- **Effects of war on British rule:** the impact on the Raj; the Montagu Declaration; the Rowlatt Acts. The Amritsar massacre and political aftermath; the Montagu-Chelmsford Report and the Government of India Act; significance of 1919 for British rule.
- **The growth of nationalism:** impact of war; the Indian National Congress and emergence of Gandhi; the Lucknow Pact and role of Jinnah; Home Rule Leagues; response to British legislation and the significance of Amritsar, 1919-20.

## **2. Changing political relationships, 1920-30**

- **Gandhi and civil disobedience, 1920-22:** Gandhi's aims and beliefs; his becoming leader of Congress 1920; the non-cooperation campaign; significance of his imprisonment.
- **Congress reorganised, 1922-30:** membership and organisation; political participation and 'back to basics'; the 'young hooligans'; the Nehru Report; the Lahore Congress and purna swaraj; the salt satyagraha and consequences of civil disobedience.
- **The Muslim League:** the Khilafat movement; re-emergence of Muslim values; the concept of separateness; breakdown of relations with Congress; Jinnah's beliefs and aims; the significance of failed attempts to reunite with Congress.
- **British response: control and concession;** reasons for and reception of the Simon Commission; the Labour government and the significance of the Irwin Declaration.

## **3. Consultation and confrontation, 1930-42**

- **Failure of the Round Table Conferences, 1930-32:** the First, Second and Third Conferences; reasons for failure, including the role of Congress, the situation in Britain and divisions over separate elections.
- **Political developments, 1932-35:** Indian reaction to the failure of consultation; the Communal Award and Gandhi's response; the Yeravda Pact; support and opposition in Britain for constitutional change.
- **Government of India Act and its impact, 1935-39:** partial implementation; nationalist response. Outcome of the 1937 elections; rejuvenation of the Muslim League; divisions within Congress; attitudes towards the British Raj.
- **Reaction to outbreak of the Second World War:** Congress and Muslim League responses to the declaration of war; the Lahore Resolution; nationalist reaction to the August Offer; Bose and the Axis Powers.

## **4. The road to independence, 1942-48**

- **Impact of the Second World War on Indian politics:** threat of invasion; the Cripps Mission; the 'Quit India Campaign' and its repercussions; Wavell's appointment as Viceroy; the Bengal Famine; the failure of the Simla Conference 1945.
- **The changing relationship between Britain and India, 1942- 45:** impact of war on British rule and Indian nationalism; the influence of the USA; the Labour government's Indian policy.
- **Attempts at political settlement, 1945-46,** including the impact of Indian elections; failure of the Cabinet Mission; Direct Action; interim government under Nehru.
- **Withdrawal, partition and independence, 1947-48:** Mountbatten and the decision to withdraw; reasons for partition and the nationalist response; the partition plan; the Boundary Commission; independence for India and Pakistan. British withdrawal and communal violence.

## Reading List

### USA

<b>Books</b>	<b>Films/Documentaries</b>
Lewis Gould - <i>The Modern American Presidency*</i> Michelle Obama - <i>Becoming</i> Bill Bryson - <i>1927</i> F. Scott Fitzgerald - <i>The Great Gatsby</i> John Steinbeck - <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> Alice Walker - <i>The Color Purple</i> Kathryn Stockett - <i>The Help</i>	The Post (2017) Hidden Figures (2016) The Trial of the Chicago 7 (Netflix) Good Morning Vietnam (1987) Jackie (2016) Malcolm X (1992) Milk (2008) Mrs American (BBC)

### India

<b>Books</b>	<b>Films/Documentaries</b>
John Keay - <i>India: A History</i> Lawrence James - <i>Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India</i> Alex Von Tunzelmann - <i>Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire*</i> Patrick French - <i>Liberty or Death*</i> EM Forester - <i>A Passage to India</i> Salman Rushdie - <i>Midnight's Children</i> Paul Scott - <i>Raj Quartet</i>	Viceroy's House (2017) Channel 4 - <i>Indian Summers (2015-16)</i> Granada - <i>The Jewel in the Crown (1984)</i> Richard Attenborough - <i>Gandhi (1982)</i> David Lean - <i>A Passage to India (1984)</i>

*These reading lists are for information only. I would suggest that you might want to read one of the novels or memoirs or core texts(\*) to give you an introduction to the periods we will study. These are not exhaustive lists and if none of these take your fancy do look on Amazon or in bookshops for other ideas.*