



# History and Government & Politics Department



Student Name .....

## History Transition Workbook

# Welcome to History at Wyke College

**As it is highly likely that you will all miss Wyke Start this year, we open here with a warm welcome, and a summary of what the History and Government & Politics Department at Wyke College can offer you:**

**Staff for 2020/21:** Each of you will be allotted one of the three History Teachers within the Department – James Goodchild; Andrew Bentley; and Pete Carpenter.

**Resources:** The History Moodle site is packed full of superb material to assist with your studies over the next two years, including all lessons and plenty of extra reading. There are plenty of books that can be borrowed from the Department.

**Support Sessions:** We run weekly Master Classes for students with high expectations. These sessions are designed to allow students to explore in depth many of the primary issues covered in the module. These sessions are therefore pitched at a higher level than standard lessons. Additional reading is expected in preparation for these sessions, and some extra periodical homework is set, but is not compulsory. There are also skill and content revision lessons offered before each assessment and exam.

**History Trips:** The annual trip to Washington is highly recommended for 1<sup>st</sup> year History students as it has great relevance to the USA module. The trip will include visits to the White House (outside only); the Capitol Building; and the National Archives among many other activities. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, students can participate in the Battlefields Tour in France and Belgium. There is also the chance to win a day trip to Auschwitz in Poland.

**A-Level History Programme Schedule:** Students will study two modules in the 1<sup>st</sup> year – *In Search of the American Dream*, and *India: The Road to Independence*. These two modules will run concurrently (one week on, one week off) throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> year. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, students will study only one module – *British Experience of Warfare*. This is breadth as well as depth, and covers a period of over 200 years, so clearly takes longer to cover. Students will also undertake their History Coursework in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, although students are well-advised to consider making solid preparations in their 1<sup>st</sup> year. We offer an incentive for students who are keen to achieve – achieve a grade of B or more in your 1<sup>st</sup> year and you will be permitted to do your coursework on any subject of your choice so long as it has an historical controversy.

# Why Do You Wish to Study A-Level History?

**In at least three sentences, please explain why you wish to study History at A-Level:**

**In at least three sentences, please discuss your favourite topic in History, and explain why it is your favourite?**

**In at least three sentences, please discuss your favourite historical figure, and explain why it is your favourite?**

# Why History Matters

**‘We believe that history matters. A society out of touch with its past cannot have confidence in its future. History defines, educates and inspires us. It lives on in our historic environment. As custodians of the past, we will be judged by generations to come. We must value it, nurture it and pass it on’.**

Statement by the National Trust, English Heritage, and Heritage Lottery Fund in 2006.

**Why do you think History matters? Please consider your answer carefully, and write at least 250 words.**

**Now please read the following statements, and then select the one you prefer, and explain why:**

- History broadens the mind (Richard Evans, Historian).
- History helps to see resolution to present conflicts (Julian Richards, Archaeologist).
- History challenges our intellect (Ludmilla Jordanova, Historian).

- History enlarges our own humanity (Peter Jones, philanthropist).
- History helps us to fight prejudice (Ruth Scurr, Historian).
- History reminds us that individuals make a difference (Joanna Bourke, Historian).
- History gives us a shared identity (Barry Coward, Historian).
- History shows us the complexity of situations (John Hudson, Historian).
- History ensures that we are not just detached observers of events (Alan Munslow).
- History is just one thing after another (Alan Bennett, *History Boys*, 2004).
- History is philosophy teaching by examples (Lord Bolingbroke, Tory MP, 1735).
- He who knows no history is not properly educated either as a citizen or as an intellectual and imaginative being (G. M. Trevelyan, Historian, 1938).
- History generates plausible and ‘real’ pictures of the past (J. Champion, Historian).

**Which statement do you prefer, and why?**

# Presidents of the USA

The following tasks will serve as an ideal taster for the USA module that you will study in Y1 A-Level History at Wyke College. Paper One entitled *In Search of the American Dream* is centred entirely upon close analysis of the changes that take place in twentieth century America – how a still fairly new nation was dragged out of world isolation to become the greatest superpower the world has ever known. This module explores this transformation from a political, economic and social perspective. The following tasks are a taster for the political section:

## **Agenda for this section:**

- **Which American Presidents do you know?**
- **What Constitutes a ‘Good’ President?**
- **Ten Best Presidents Video (6 mins).**
- **Five of the Most Famous Presidents – but what did they do?**
- **Who are the Presidents?**

To begin this section, please complete the boxes below. You may have to think carefully about your answers – perhaps plan your answers first by undertaking some online research into what people have said about the various Presidents in History: The following links are ideal to get you started:

Miller Center: <https://millercenter.org/president>

Ten Best Presidents: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_xFovzUrCcg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xFovzUrCcg)

25 Best Presidents: <https://www.businessinsider.com/the-top-20-presidents-in-us-history-according-to-historians-2017-2?r=US&IR=T>

**Who in your opinion was the best President, and what did they do?**

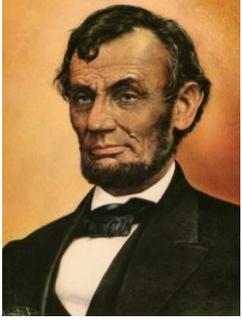
**What Constitutes a 'Good' President?**

**What Constitutes a 'Bad' President?**

# The Most Famous Presidents of the USA

What do you know (or can find out) about the five most famous Presidents listed below?

Please consider their successes and failures, and why they are so important:

	<p><b>George Washington</b></p>
	<p><b>Abraham Lincoln</b></p>
	<p><b>Franklin Delano Roosevelt</b></p>
	<p><b>John F. Kennedy</b></p>
	<p><b>Barak Obama</b></p>

# Who was the President?

**Please continue your online research into the Presidents of the USA in order to determine the President that matches these brief summaries:**

Only president to be impeached by Congress (although he was acquitted by the Supreme Court by one vote). Attempted to revoke Lincoln's 15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery.	
Failed to restore confidence after the Wall Street Crash which happened in his presidency, and for which his administration was partly to blame.	
Gave the order for the atomic bombing of two Japanese cities – the only president to ever use atomic weapons. He also began the Korean War, and had the worst recorded rating of any president.	
Lied to Congress over his involvement in the wiretapping (spying) of people he was suspicious about. He was almost impeached, but resigned before Congress could act. He is the only President to resign.	
Lied to Congress over a sex scandal (that apparently happened in the White House) and extra-marital affair. Did serve his full two terms, but did face impeachment hearings by Congress.	
Arguably the most controversial President, for he divides popular opinion – some think he was great; some think he was awful because he 'made the rich richer, and the poor poorer', but others say that he won the Cold War for the USA!	
Famous for doing almost nothing, this President had a 'leave well alone' attitude to governing, and presided in one of the 'boom-time' periods of American history.	
This president did not want to be President at all! He was convinced to run for president by his predecessor, and especially his wife who greatly desired to be First Lady. He was very depressed as President, and served only one term with little significance.	

# India: The Road to Independence

**Please read and watch the following links on British rule in India, and the struggle for independence by the Indian nationalists:**

How the British gained control of India: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNWTXaOotEA>

How the British managed to rule India: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7GOh8qILwQ>

Empire to Independence: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/independence1947\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/independence1947_01.shtml)

Wiki On British Raj: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_British\\_Raj](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_British_Raj)

**How did the British acquire India as a colony, and why?**

**In your opinion, was British rule good or bad for India?**

**Please support your arguments with evidence:**

# The Amritsar Massacre

**Please read and watch the following links on the tragic event that is known as the Amritsar Massacre, that took place at the Jallianwala Bagh (which means ‘park’ in English) on 13 April 1919:**

Amritsar Massacre from the *Gandhi* Movie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LaoamJ3vbs>

Amritsar Massacre: <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/months-past/amritsar-massacre>

100 Years since Amritsar: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/12/britain-amritsar-massacre-centenary-1919-india>

Wiki on Amritsar: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jallianwala\\_Bagh\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jallianwala_Bagh_massacre)

**Create your own interpretation of the Amritsar Massacre. Please remember to include some substantiated argument and judgement:**

**Who do you think was to blame for the Amritsar Massacre?**

# **Summer Work for Prospective A-Level History Students**

**As part of your preparation for the study of History at A-Level, you are required to undertake two assignments:**

- An essay on African-American civil rights.
- An historical research project into the Amritsar Massacre.

For the first assignment, please undertake some research on two of the key leaders of the African-American civil rights movement – Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. Then answer the following essay question:

**How far do you agree that, in the civil rights cause for African-Americans, Malcolm X was more influential than Martin Luther King?**

There is no word count, although your essay should comprise of three themed paragraphs in addition to an introduction and conclusion.

## **An Historical Investigation into the Amritsar Massacre**

A massacre of peacefully protesting civilians took place in the Jallianwala Bagh of the holy city of Amritsar on the 13 April 1919. This massacre has, even since, been a highly controversial issue. Your task is to investigate the sequence of events that fateful day, why this catastrophe occurred, and who was ultimately responsible. There is plenty of reading on the Amritsar Massacre available on the internet to help you with this project, and plenty of videos to watch on YouTube. Please consider the following questions:

- **What was special about the city of Amritsar?**
- **How did events unfurl in Amritsar on 13 April 1919?**

- **Why did the massacre occur?**
- **How many were killed?**
- **Who was General Dyer?**
- **What was the Hunter Commission?**
- **What was the long-term impact of the Amritsar Massacre?**

Please be as artistic as you wish in the presentation of your historical research. You could produce any of the following: a picture, a poster, a timeline, a spider diagram, a poem, or a conventional essay. You may wish to write a story with you as a central character, or one of the crowd, in the massacre. It is up to you.

Please learn through fun with these assignments, and submit your work on Enrolment Day, which is likely to place in late-August (or early September) 2020.

If you wish to learn more on the history modules you will study at Wyke College, then the textbook can be found in this link: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Level-History-Paper-ActiveBook/dp/1447985338/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=rights+and+freedoms&qid=1589806737&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Level-History-Paper-ActiveBook/dp/1447985338/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=rights+and+freedoms&qid=1589806737&s=books&sr=1-1)

And if you wish for more work from us, then please do not hesitate to contact us by email at:

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We very much look forward to meeting you, and to working with you over the two years to 2022, in order to ensure that you succeed in A-Level History.