



# History and Government & Politics Department



**Student Name** .....

**Y1 A-Level History Summer Work**

# Welcome to History at Wyke College

**We are delighted that you have chosen History as one of your A-Levels here at Wyke College, and warmly welcome you to our dynamic History & Government & Politics Department. This is what your two-year History programme will offer you:**

**Staff for 2022/23:** Each of you will be allotted one of the four History Teachers within the Department – James Goodchild, Andy Bentley, Pete Carpenter, and Olivia Kemp.

**Resources:** The History SharePoint 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 also 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.

# Presidents of the USA

Paper One of your History A-Level is entitled *In Search of the American Dream*, and is centred entirely upon close analysis of the changes that took 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. To make a start with this Module, we start you off with an online research task as a taster for the political section. Please research twentieth century Presidents, and then write a paragraph in answer to the question in the box below. 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)

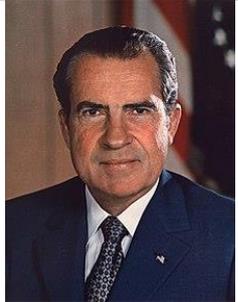
25 Best Presidents: <https://www.businessinsider.com/the-top-20-presidents-in-us-history-according-to-historians-2017-2?r=US&IR=T>

**Who do you think was the best US President in the twentieth century? Explain your answer, and while doing so try to consider what attributes a good President ought to have:**

# The Most Famous Presidents of the USA

What do you know (or can find out) about these five Historical Presidents listed below?

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

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
|    | <b>Franklin Delano Roosevelt</b> |
|   | <b>John F. Kennedy</b>           |
|  | <b>Lyndon Baines Johnson</b>     |
|  | <b>Richard Nixon</b>             |
|  | <b>Ronald Reagan</b>             |

# **African- American Quest for Civil Rights in Twentieth Century USA**

The ‘American Dream’ was one of security and prosperity – the USA had always presented itself globally as the land of opportunity. However, equality of opportunity often meant ‘rugged individualism’ (sorting out one’s own problems). Meanwhile ethnic minorities, women, the poor, social minorities and radicals often struggled to be heard in the ‘land of the free’. The history of the USA in the twentieth century can be seen as the history of ordinary Americans trying to come to terms with these contradictions. One of the most iconic aspects of twentieth century USA is the quest for civil rights for African-Americans, which comprises of Topic Two of your *In Search of the American Dream* Module. Two key figures dominated the debate on this subject in the 1960s – Martin Luther King who advocated activist protest to achieve equality and integration; and Malcolm X who advocated militant protest and separation of black communities from white communities.

**For the first major assignment of your History Summer Work, please undertake some research on these two key leaders of the African-American civil rights movement, and then answer the following essay question (handwritten on lined A4 paper):**

**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.

# India: The Road to Independence

Paper Two of your History A-Level is entitled *India: The Road to Independence*, and is centred entirely upon close analysis of the rise of nationalism in the British Raj (the name for British-controlled India), the Indian peoples' struggle for freedom and independence, and the British response to such nationalist agitation. Key figures loom large in this Module: Mahatma Gandhi, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Jawaharlal Nehru, Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee, and the many Viceroys of India that ruled India for the British Government. To get you started on this fascinating aspect of little-known History, we ask you to undertake some online research on the British Raj, on the key figures involved (such as those mentioned above), and the Nationalist struggle for India's independence, and then write a short paragraph detailing your views on British rule over India. Here are some links to get you started:

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)

**What are your views on British rule over India?**

**Please provide and substantiated judgement:**

**Context = surrounding history.**

**Substantiated judgement = evidence to support your arguments.**

# The Amritsar Massacre

The Amritsar Massacre is the most famous event of British repression during the centuries of British rule over India. 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. **For the second major assignment of your Summer Work, please research the Amritsar Massacre, and the create an artistic impression of the tragedy.** You may wish to 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?

**Here are some links to get you started on your research:**

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)

**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. If you require more information, or help, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at:

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[Andrew.bentley@wyke.ac.uk](mailto:Andrew.bentley@wyke.ac.uk)

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