

GCSE History homework

Year 10 terms 1 & 2



Due Date	Revision focus
Tuesday 12 th September 2023	The First Americans (4 marks)
Tuesday 19 th September 2023	The 'Melting Pot' (4 marks)
Tuesday 26 th September 2023	Immigration before the 1920s (4 marks)
Tuesday 3 rd October 2023	A 1920s economic 'boom' (4 marks)
Tuesday 10 th October 2023	Society in the 'Roaring Twenties' (4 marks)
Tuesday 17 th October 2023	Women in 1920s America (4 marks)
Tuesday 7 th November 2023	Inequalities of the 'Boom' (4 marks)
Tuesday 14 th November 2023	Prohibition in America: 1920–1933 (4 marks)
Tuesday 21 st November 2023	Immigration by the 1920s (4 marks)
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	African Americans in 1920s America (4 marks)
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	The Red Scare in 1920s America (4 marks)
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	The Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti (4 marks)
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Wall Street Crash (4 marks)
Tuesday 9 th January 2024	The Impact of the Great Depression

Due date:	Tuesday 12 th September 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



GCSE Topic: USA 1920-1973

Key Knowledge – The First Americans

- When British people first settled in America in the 1600s, they established 13 different colonies.
- Over the years the British settlers started to identify as Americans and became fed up with British rule– the 13 colonies declared independence.
- After winning their independence, the colonies set up a new constitution (a set of rules) describing how the country should be governed.
- The central government made decisions on things that affected the whole country; the state government made decisions on things that affected specific states.
- The Republican Party are more traditional and stay out of people’s lives where possible (‘laissez-faire’ meaning ‘let it be’). They didn’t believe in high taxes.
- The Democratic Party was more of an ‘ordinary people’s party’ preferring to intervene in everyday life if necessary. They favoured helping those in need, such as the poor or elderly.
- The Bill of Rights (part of the constitution) declared a freedom of protection, freedom in law, freedom of speech and freedom of belief.
- By 1919, many states refused to recognise the right to vote of women, African Americans and Native Americans.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two features of the American constitution. (4 marks)

One feature...

Another feature...

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 19 th September 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – The ‘Melting Pot’

- Immigrants arrived in America fleeing from poverty, famine and persecution. Many were attracted by the promise of a better life – living the ‘American Dream’.
- By the 1900s there were over 100 different nationalities. The ‘melting pot’ included: Native Americans, early immigrants, African-Americans and new immigrants.
- Native Americans lived in tribes across America before white men settled there. They were forced to live in reservations. By 1900, there were only about 250,000 Native Americans left in America.
- **Early immigrants (1600s)** came from Europe, mainly: Britain, the Netherlands and Germany. They tended to have the best jobs and have the most money and political power.
- African-Americans had descended from slavery, working on cotton and tobacco farms between 1600 and 1800. When slavery ended in 1865, slaves were set free but many continued to work on farms. By 1920, there were 10 million African-Americans. Most had limited freedom, no right to vote and were denied food, jobs, and housing.
- **New immigrants (1850 onwards)** flooded into America mainly from: eastern and southern Europe. Many were poor and illiterate, crowding into large industrial towns looking for work.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two features of the ‘melting pot’ in twentieth century America. (4 marks)

One feature...

Another feature...

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 26 th September 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – Immigration Before the 1920s

- **Early immigrants (1600s)** came from Europe, mainly: Britain, the Netherlands and Germany. They tended to have the best jobs and have the most money and political power.
- These settlers fought many wars between themselves and with the Native Americans
- After about 150 years, the descendants of the early settlers started to hate being ruled from Britain. They fought, and won, the American War for Independence.
- By the 1900s, white English-speakers had become the most powerful group in America. Surveys showed that about 10% of American people owned 90% of the country’s wealth – these were mostly white immigrants, often known as WASPS – White Anglo Saxon Protestants.
- **New immigrants (1850 onwards)** flooded into America mainly from: eastern and southern Europe. Many were poor and illiterate, crowding into large industrial towns looking for work. They crowded into large industrial towns and cities looking for work.
- Over a million people left Ireland for America after major famines between 1845 and 1848.
- There was also a growing number of Chinese and Japanese immigrants.
- Hispanics moved across the border for a new life too. Many saw them as a threat to their way of life.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two problems caused by immigration before the 1920s. (4 marks)

One problem...

Another problem...

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 3 rd October 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – A 1920s Economic ‘Boom’

- The USA was in a state of economic prosperity in the 1920s. Goods were made on machines, on a large scale in factories. This meant that goods could be made faster and cheaper.
- Tariffs: tariffs (such as the Fordney-McCumber) made overseas versions of the same products more expensive so people bought American goods. This helped America's economy to thrive.
- Low taxation: Americans were taxed a low rates which meant that they had more money to spend on new consumer goods, which helped boost industrial growth.
- Credit: hire purchase allowed people to pay for their goods in instalments so that buyers didn't need to have all of the money straight away.
- Advertising: new techniques encouraged people to spend with newspapers advertising the latest products.
- Republican Policies: Republicans believed that the government should do as little as possible to interfere with people’s lives. Businessmen should be able to make profits without government interference – this is known as ‘laissez faire’ (‘let it be’).

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two ways American achieved an economic ‘boom’ in the 1920s. (4 marks)

One way

Another way

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 10 th October 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – Society in the ‘Roaring Twenties’

- The USA was in a state of economic prosperity in the 1920s. ‘Roaring Twenties’ suggests a time of fun, loud music, and wild enjoyment when everyone was having a good time.
- The growing prosperity gave many people the money and spare time to go out and enjoy themselves. The average working week dropped from 47 to 44 hours per week and wages increased by 11%.
- Almost every person in the USA listened to the radio. People who could not afford them could purchase one in instalments – by the end of 1922, there were 508 radio stations.
- The radio gave much greater access to new music. African-American performers brought jazz to the cities – it became an obsession amongst young people . The 1920s became known as the ‘jazz age’, with new dances such as the Charleston becoming popular.
- The film industry boomed; 800 films were produced per year and 100 million cinema tickets were sold each week.
- Professional sport boomed. Baseball became hugely popular; the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox helped the industry to boom.
- Boxing became hugely popular with heroes such as heavy weight champion of the world, Jack Dempsey.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two new developments in American entertainment during the Roaring Twenties. (4 marks)

One new development

Another new development

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 17 th October 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – Women in 1920s America

- Women’s lives changed in the 1920s, but these changes were greater for some women than others.
- Before the First World War, women were restricted in: clothing, behaviour, and make-up. They could not take part in sport or smoke in public. Women were required to have a chaperone when out with a boyfriend.
- Women were expected to be housewives, and very few paid jobs were available for women.
- In the 1920s, much began to change, especially for **middle-class women**. When the USA joined the First World War in 1917, many were asked to work in factories. As a result, in 1920, women got the right to vote in all states.
- . By 1929 there were 10 million women in jobs, 24% more than in 1920.
- Throughout the 1920s women could purchase household goods (for example, vacuum cleaners and washing machines) to make housework easier.
- **Urban women** began to wear wore daring clothes, smoked in public, went out without a chaperone, and even kissed in public. ‘Flappers’ wore short dresses, make-up and smoked in public.
- There was a still a strong feeling of tradition within some areas of America. Tradition and religious beliefs kept most American women in more restricted roles than the middle-class or urban women were enjoying.
- Women were still paid less than men, even when they did the same job.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two new developments for women during the 1920s. (4 marks)

One new development

Another new development

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 7 th November 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



GCSE Topic: USA 1920-1973

Key Knowledge – Inequalities of the ‘Boom’

African Americans

- Most African Americans worked on farms as labourers and sharecroppers who rented small areas of land.
- As the farming industry suffered, this group were hit hardest as they were already desperately poor.
- Many African Americans moved to cities looking for work; due to racist attitudes, many only found low-paid jobs.

Poverty in the countryside

- After the First World War there was less demand for American Imports and new import taxes were placed on American goods. This made American products more expensive and therefore harder to sell.
- New machinery produced more food causing prices to fall further, which led to more suffering.
- Many farmers were forced to sell their farms to raise money or were evicted from their land. 600,000 farmers lost their farms in 1924 alone.

Traditional Industries

- Many coal mines were closed as other forms of fuel became more popular leading to less jobs for miners.
- Demand for cotton and woollen goods fell as new fabrics became more popular leading to fewer jobs for factory workers.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two groups who did not benefit from the economic boom of the 1920's. (4 marks)

One group

Another group

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 14 th November 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – Prohibition in America: 1920-1933

- Many groups in America (particularly religious groups) feared that alcohol was damaging America, with issues such as violence, poverty, addiction, and debt.
- A national ban on alcohol was introduced in 1920; this was called the Volstead Act and it banned American from selling, making or transporting any drink containing more than 0.5% alcohol.
- The government created 1,500 prohibition agents to enforce this law – they had to locate alcohol and then confiscate it. By 1930, there were 3,000 agents but many were easily bribed.
- Prohibition did not work – people still wanted to drink and organised crime worsened.

Organised Crime

- Gangs (such as the one led by Al Capone) set up speakeasies which sold smuggled alcohol in from abroad, brought by bootleggers.
- Speakeasies also sold moonshine, which was a home-made spirit which caused serious illness.
- Deaths from alcohol poisoning increased from 98 in 1920 to nearly 80 in 1926.
- Gangsters, such as Al Capone, made money from racketeering (where businessmen paid gangs money not to smash up their properties.)
- By 1933, many realised this experiment had failed. One of the first things President Roosevelt did when he came into office, was to repeal (take back) the Volstead Act.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two problems caused by prohibition in 1920s America. (4 marks)

One problem

Another problem

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
EXPLANATION

Due date:	Tuesday 21 st November 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – Immigration by the 1920s

- In many cities, new immigrants were not welcome – they were often resented by ‘old immigrants’ because they were seen as poor and couldn’t speak English well.
- The First World War had added to the country’s suspicion of ‘foreigners’.
- A communist revolution in Russia, 1917, increased fear that Russian immigrants to America might do the same again.
- For many new immigrants, life in the ‘New World’ was not what they expected; working and living conditions were poor. Immigrants were willing to work in any kind of job for very low wages – this encouraged feelings of resentment by Americans towards immigrants.
- By the 1920s the government began to introduce laws to limit the amount of immigrants arriving in America.
- In 1917, American banned any immigrant over 16 years old who was unable to read a sentence over 40 words. Many had received no education and so were refused entry.
- In 1921 a Quota Law allowed only 350,000 immigrants to enter America each year moving forward. This was cut to 150,000 by 1924.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two problems faced by immigrants in 1920’s America. (4 marks)

One problem

Another problem

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 28 th November 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – African Americans in 1920s America

- Slavery had been abolished in 1865, but many African Americans still suffered from prejudice by the 1920s. Most were denied access to higher education, good jobs and the right to vote.
- By 1900, 12 million African Americans lived in the USA –75% of these lived in the southern states.
- The KKK (Ku Klux Klan) continued lynching African Americans; over 61 were lynched in 1921.
- Laws were passed to keep African Americans segregated from white Americans– known as the ‘Jim Crow’ Laws. The laws stopped African Americans from using the same restaurants, hotels, swimming pools, libraries etc as white Americans. African Americans were stopped from voting by making them pass a literacy test.
- By the twentieth century, nearly 2 million African Americans had left the south and headed north. They lived in the worst housing and the poorest areas of the cities.
- Some employers would only hire white Americans or paid black workers the lowest wage. African Americans were usually the last to be given jobs and the first to be fired. As a result. Although pay in the new industries was low, it was better than it was in the southern states and so African Americans continued to move; the population of both Chicago and New York had more than doubled since 1900.
- ✓ Although there was still poverty and racism in the northern cities, some African-American communities flourished (known as the ‘Black Renaissance’).
- ✓ Talented black poets, writers, artists and musicians emerged in Harlem, New York and made it a centre for black culture.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two problems faced by African Americans in 1920’s America. (4 marks)

One problem

Another problem

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 5 th December 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – The Red Scare in 1920s America

- There was an increase of immigrants into America in the 1920s . Some saw immigrants as the enemy who brought ‘un-American’ ideas into the country.
- Americans took great pride in owning homes and businesses, and so communism (the belief that the state should own everything) was viewed as a threat to the American way of life.
- Communism was especially feared after Russia’s 1917 revolution, as America had let in nearly 1.5 million Russian immigrants.
- In 1919 the American Communist Party was set up; this increased people’s fears.
- In July 1919, a bomb destroyed the house of Alexander Mitchell **Palmer** - the man in charge of America’s law and police. A communist newspaper was found next to the body of the suicide bomber. Palmer vowed to get rid of America’s communists – or ‘Reds’ as they were called.
- During the ‘**Palmer Raids**’ around 6,000 suspected communists were arrested.
- Palmer announced that there were plans by communists to launch terror attacks, but the attacks never came. Although the ‘Red Scare’ soon ended in America, it was clear that American's had a great fear communism – this period was known as the ‘Red Scare’.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two causes of the ‘Red Scare’ in 1920s America. (4 marks)

One cause

Another cause

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 12 th December 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – The Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti

- In April 1920, robbers stole \$15,000 from a shoe factory and shot two of the staff dead. One month later, Italian-born Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested and charged.
- Their trial lasted 45 days.
- Many historians see the case of Sacco and Vanzetti as an example of how intolerant society had become of immigrants. Both men were poorly educated and spoke little English.
- Throughout the trial, the two men maintained their innocence; with no evidence, they were sentenced to death by electric chair.

Evidence ‘For’

- 61 eye witnesses identified them as the killers
- Both men were carrying loaded guns
- Both men ‘acted’ guilty

Evidence ‘Against’

- 107 people said the men were elsewhere that night
- Witnesses disagreed with what the men were allegedly wearing
- Several others confessed to the crime

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two ways the case of Sacco and Vanzetti reflects attitude towards immigrants in America. (4 marks)

One way

Another way

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 19 th December 2023
Student number:	
Name:	



GCSE Topic: USA 1920-1973

Key Knowledge –The Wall St Crash

The economic prosperity of the 'Roaring Twenties' came to an end in October 1929. On Black Tuesday, 29 October, 16 million shares were sold on the stock market in Wall Street and the economy collapsed completely. By 1930, America was in the Great Depression. There were many reasons for the Wall Street crash:

Over production and agriculture: As farming techniques improved, farmers started producing more food. However, the demand for grain fell in America because of Prohibition and changes in tastes in food. Overproduction led to falling prices. Thousands of farmers fell into crippling debt, could not pay their mortgages and so became unemployed after having to sell their farms or being evicted. In 1924, 600,000 farmers lost their farms.

Underconsumption - By the end of the 1920s, there were too many consumer goods unsold in the USA. Mass production methods led to supply outstripping demand. People who could afford items, such as cars and household gadgets, had already purchased them. Also, people in agriculture and the traditional industries, who were on low wages, could not afford consumer goods. This meant workers were laid off, which reduced demand for goods even further.

Government policies - The laissez-faire policy of the Presidents meant there were not enough safeguards in the economy, especially on the banks and the stock market. America tried to sell its surplus goods in Europe. However, the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act 1922 had led to European countries imposing tariffs on American goods. This meant American goods were too expensive to buy in Europe and, as a result, there was not much trade between America and Europe.

GCSE-Style Question

Describe two reasons for the Wall Street Crash (4 marks)

One reason for the Wall Street Crash was _____

Another reason was _____

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:

DESCRIBE

Due date:	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Student number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – The impact of the Great Depression

Unemployment

Lots of American people lost their jobs. In Toledo in 1932, 80% of the population did not have jobs. This meant that nobody had money to buy new items. As a result, business had no money to pay their workers and even more jobs were lost.

Farmers

Total farm income had slipped to \$5 billion and international trade was reduced from \$10 billion in 1929 to \$3 billion in 1932. This was made much worse by the Dust Bowl. Between 1934 and 1937, the bare soil was easily picked up by the winds and swirled into dense dust clouds. This meant farmers could not afford to pay for their living and had to abandon their farms and go fruit-picking in California.

Homelessness

Homeless people went to live in shanty towns called 'Hooverilles' (as an insult to President Hoover). A "Hooverville" was a shanty town built by homeless people during the Great Depression. People looked desperately for work to earn some money.

GCSE-Style Question

In what ways did the Great Depression affect the lives of Americans? (8 marks)

10 MINS



PARAGRAPHS



**SKILL FOCUS:
EXPLANATION**