

GCSE History Homework 2025 – 26

Year 10 - Term 1

History Homework Day: Tuesday

Week	Due Date	Revision Focus
2	8 September	(4 marks) The First Americans
3	15 September	(4 marks) The 'Melting Pot'
4	22 September	(4 marks) Immigration Before the 1920s
5	29 September	(4 marks) A 1920s Economic 'Boom'
6	6 October	(4 marks) Society in the 'Roaring Twenties'
7	13 October	(4 marks) Women in 1920s America

Due Date:	8 September 2026
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:	8 September 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Complete the tables with SPEND evidence

Democrats	Republicans

The American Constitution

Due Date:	15 September 2026
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:	15 September 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Complete the definitions and then answer the questions about the source.

Melting pot	
Xenophobia	

What does the source suggest about immigration in the 1920's? (think about the phrase 'flood of immigration')

Does this source support or oppose immigration? Explain



- Does the idea of a 'melting pot' suggest that immigrants were:
- a) Encouraged to keep their individuality and culture and customs
 - b) Blend in/fit in with the American way of life

The title of the image is 'spoiling the broth' what does this suggest about attitudes towards immigrants?

Due Date:	22 September 2026
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:	22 September 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Read interpretation A and answer the questions:

Interpretation A: Elias Garza from Mexico, describes his own immigrant experience in the USA in the 1920's.

Here in the United States, they drive one crazy from working so much. They squeeze one here until one is left useless. I heard that there were some good jobs here in the US and that good money could be made. We worked on the tracks, taking up and laying down the rails, and doing all kinds of hard work. They only paid us \$1.50 and exploited us without mercy, for they sold us everything very high. I don't even like to deal with those Americans for the truth is that they don't like the Mexicans.

1. What is the message of interpretation A?

2. Who is the author and why do they have this opinion?

3. How convincing is this interpretation about the experiences of immigrants in the 1920's?

The interpretation is convincing because it says

We know this is true because

Due Date:	29 September 2026
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:	29 September 2026 sheet 2
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Interpretation B: Adapted from *America*, written by Alistair Cooke in 1973.

Cooke was born in England in 1908, first lived in the USA in 1932, and became an American citizen in 1941. He was a journalist who specialised in describing life in America to people in Britain. He was sometimes criticised for giving an overly positive view of life in his adopted home country.

It is staggering to consider what the Ford Model T car was to lead to in both industry and folkways. It certainly wove the first network of paved highways. But also, beginning in the 1920s, ordinary people who had never taken a holiday beyond the nearest lake or mountain could now explore the South, New England, even the West, and in time the whole horizon of the USA. Most of all, the Ford Model T gave to the farmer and the rancher, miles from anywhere, a new pair of legs.

What is the message?

Who is the author?

How convincing is this interpretation about the opportunities provided by the Economic Boom in the 1920's?

The interpretation is convincing because it says

We know this is true because

Due Date:	6 October 2026
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:	6 October 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
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Interpretation A: Adapted from *The Story of the CIO* (*Congress of Industrial Organizations*), written by Benjamin Stolberg in 1938.

Stolberg was a journalist who specialised in writing stories highlighting the ways working people in America were treated badly by the companies they worked for. Hitler established a private army called the 'Stormtroopers' in the early 1920s in Germany, and they had a reputation for violence.

There are about 800 gangsters in the Ford Motor Company. They are Stormtroopers. They make no pretense of working; they are there to 'keep order' in the factory through terror. There are between 8,000 and 9,000 authentic workers, a great many of them spies and informants, and a great many others who have been forced into joining this organized crime organization. Workers seen talking together are taken off the assembly line and fired. They are falsely accused of 'starting a fight', in which they often get terribly beaten up.

What is the message?

Who is the author?

How convincing is this interpretation about the opportunities provided by the Economic Boom in the 1920's?

The interpretation is convincing because it says

We know this is true because

Due Date:	13 October 2026
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:	13 October 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	

Interpretation B: Adapted from an essay called '*Echoes of the Jazz Age*', written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1931.

Fitzgerald was a famous novelist who wrote about the glamour of 1920s America. His novels, which included *The Great Gatsby* and *A Diamond as Big as the Ritz*, focused on the adventures of rich, white Americans.

The generation which had been adolescent during the confusion of the First World War, brusquely shouldered my contemporaries out of the way and danced into the limelight in the very first years of the 1920s. This was the generation whose girls dramatized themselves as flappers. By 1923, their elders, tired of watching the carnival with ill-concealed envy, had discovered that young liquor will take the place of young blood, and with a whoop the party began.

What is the message?

Who is the author?

How convincing is this interpretation about the lives of women in the 1920's?

The interpretation is convincing because it says

We know this is true because