

GCSE History Homework 2025-2026

Year 10 - Term 2

History Homework Day: Tuesday

Week	Due Date	Revision Focus
1	3 November 2026	(4 marks) Inequalities of the 'Boom'
2	10 November 2026	(4 marks) Prohibition in America: 1920 - 1933
3	17 November 2026	(4 marks) Immigration by the 1920s
4	24 November 2026	(4 marks) African Americans in 1920s America
5	1 December 2026	(4 marks) The Red Scare in 1920s America
6	8 December 2026	(4 marks) The Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti
7	15 December 2026	(4 marks) Wall Street Crash

Due Date:	3 November 2026
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 1920s. (4 marks)

One group

Another group

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
DESCRIBE

Due Date:	3 November 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Interpretation B: Raymond Tarver, talking about his life as a coal miner. He was from a small town in Mississippi.

Life in America during the 1920's was hard work and extremely depressing. We spent our whole day working to try to make a living for our families, but we never had enough money. Nobody is buying coal these days and so they are laying men off in the mine. Our neighbours are suffering too! Life in the South does not seem to change like it does in the North where all of the money is. We just to have to work every hour God sends and hope we have enough money to get through to the end of the week. It seems that the people of the Southern states of this great country have all but been forgotten.

1. What is the message of interpretation B about inequality in America in the 1920s?

2. Who is the author and how does this influence his view?

3. How convincing is this interpretation about inequality in 1920s America?
It is convincing because it says....

We know this is true because

Due Date:	10 November 2026
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:	10 November 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Interpretation A Adapted from a book by Felix von Luckner, a German visitor to the United States, written in the late 1920s.

Luckner arrived in New York in October 1926 and stayed for just over a year. Having been a naval commander during the war, he wanted to create goodwill towards Germany. Luckner earned lots of money touring America as an entertaining and popular speaker. In this book he wrote about his impressions of American life from the towns he visited.

Prohibition has been successful. The filthy saloons and bars in which the workers once drank away half their wages have disappeared. Instead, they can now buy their own cars and go away with their wives and children for the weekend or for a few days to the country or seaside. Crimes and misbehaviour that were caused by drunkenness have now declined.

1.

What is the message of interpretation A about prohibition in America in the 1920s?
2.

Who is the author and how does this influence his view?
3.

How convincing is this interpretation about prohibition in 1920s America?
It is convincing because it says....

We know this is true because

Due Date:	17 November 2026
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 1920s America. (4 marks)

One problem

Another problem

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
DESCRIBE

Due Date:	17 November 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Interpretation A Adapted from the book 'Heroes of the Fiery Cross' by Alma White published in 1928.

White was a Protestant bishop and founder of the Pillar of Fire Church which supported the Ku Klux Klan.

Thousands of immigrants have arrived in the past twenty years. This has made America the dumping ground for every sort of criminal and undesirable from other countries. They have no respect for our laws. They do not appreciate our great achievements created by the hard work and sacrifice of others. They are only waiting for the chance to replace the Stars and Stripes with the red flag of Communism.

5

1. What is the message of interpretation A about attitudes towards immigrants in America in the 1920s?
2. Who is the author and how does this influence his view?
3. How convincing is this interpretation about attitudes towards immigrants in 1920s America?

It is convincing because it says....

We know this is true because

Due Date:	24 November 2026
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 1920s America. (4 marks)

One problem

Another problem

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
DESCRIBE

Due Date:	24 November 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	

Interpretation A: Adapted from *Black Boy*, the autobiography of Richard Wright, written in 1945.

In this extract, Wright describes the poverty he experienced during his childhood growing up in the South of the USA in the 1920s.

Hunger had always been more or less at my elbow when I played, but now I began to wake up at night to find hunger standing at my bedside, staring at me. This new hunger scared me. Whenever I begged for food my mother would pour me a cup of tea which would fill the clamour of my stomach for a moment or two, but a little later I would feel hunger nudging my ribs, twisting my empty guts until they ached. I would grow dizzy and my vision would dim.

1. What is the message of interpretation B about life in America in the 1920s?

2. Who is the author and how does this influence his view?

3. How convincing is this interpretation about life in 1920s America?

It is convincing because it says....

We know this is true because

Due Date:	1 December 2026
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:	1 December 2026 sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	

1. What name was given to the fear of Communism in America in the 1920s?
2. What had happened in Russia in 1917 to heighten this fear?
3. How many suspected communists were arrested during the Palmer Raids?
4. What is an anarchist?
5. What does the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti tell us about attitudes towards immigrants in 1920s America?



What does this source suggest about America's attitude towards anarchy and communism (Bolshevism)?

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



Complete the table with as many pieces of evidence that you can find (you must have more than the three on the sheet):

The Sacco and Vanzetti Trial	
Evidence that they were guilty	Evidence that they were innocent

Make a judgement – do you think they were innocent or guilty?

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



Write a definition for each of the following key words:

Stock Market	
Speculation	
Tariff	
Shares	
Export	

Complete the table with the causes and consequences of the Wall St Crash

Cause – reason why something happens

Consequence – the result or impact of something

Causes	Consequences