

# Plymstock School

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# History AS & A Level



# A Level - Paper 1

## Britain Transformed, 1918-97

The British response to the challenges of the twentieth century created a history which is dynamic, interesting and, at times, controversial.

### A changing political and economic environment

[1918-79]

*Irish Independence*

The Blitz

*Working-class protests*

### Creating a welfare state

[1918-79]

Challenging the male-dominated, class-based society of 1918

The technological advances of the 20th Century

Provisions of social security, health and education

### Society in transition

[1918-79]

The spread of mass popular culture

A part-capitalist, part-socialist economy

The rights of women and ethnic minorities

### The changing quality of life

[1918-79]

Increasingly secular, and more diverse representation

### What impact did Thatcher's governments have on Britain?

[1979-97]



# A Level - Paper 2

## The USA c.1920-55: Boom, Bust and Recovery

Focussing on the key economic, social and cultural changes in the USA during these years, the dramatic nature and pace of change, and the effects of these changes on the lives of the American people.

The economic growth of the post-WWI era and USA's dominance in this era

### Boom and crash

[1920-29]

The Wall Street Crash

Prevalent discrimination against all minorities during the economic boom

### Depression and New Deal

[1929-38]

The technological advances of the 20th Century

### Impact of the New Deal and WW2 on the USA

[1938-1945]

The New Deal's Works Progress Administration

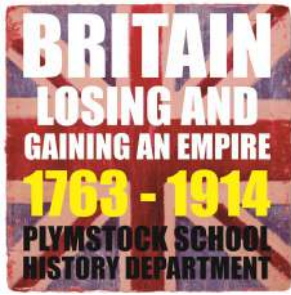
The Harlem Renaissance: An explosion of black culture

### The transformation of the USA

[1945-55]

Growth of civil rights groups

Growth in popularity for the cinema, TV and separate teenage culture



# A Level - Paper 3

## Britain: Losing and gaining an Empire, 1763-1914

A series of developments that started with an imperial catastrophe which threatened to reduce Britain once more to a European off-shore island, followed by a transformation of Britain's standing in the world so that by the end of the period it had the largest empire the world has known.

The changing importance of ports and trade routes within the UK and throughout the Empire

### The changing nature and extent of trade [1763-1914]

Abolition of the slave trade

The importance of acquisition and retention of key strategic bases around the globe

### The changing nature of the Royal Navy [1763-1914]

Commerce protection, suppressing piracy and exploration

The loss of American colonies

Birth of British Australia

### Losing, gaining and governing territory [1763-1914]

Canada and the Durham Report

The British in India

The Nile Valley



# A Level - Coursework

This option offers students the chance to study the causes of one event in detail from various viewpoints before reaching their own conclusion, presented in a 4,000 coursework essay. The option concentrates on the events of 1917 where two revolutions swept through Russia, ending centuries of imperial rule and setting in motion political and social changes that would lead to the formation of the Soviet Union. In March, growing civil unrest, coupled with chronic food shortages, erupted into open revolt, forcing the abdication of Nicholas II (1868-1918), the last Russian Tsar. Just months later, the newly installed provisional government was itself overthrown by the more radical Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924).

By 1917, most Russians had lost faith in the leadership ability of Tsar Nicholas II. Government corruption was rampant, the Russian economy remained backward, and Nicholas repeatedly dissolved the Russian parliament. However, the immediate cause of the February Revolution—the first phase of the Russian Revolution of 1917—was Russia’s disastrous involvement in World War I (1914-18). Militarily, imperial Russia was no match for industrialised Germany, and Russian casualties were greater than those sustained by any nation in any previous war. Meanwhile, the economy was hopelessly disrupted by the costly war effort, and moderates joined Russian radical elements in calling for the overthrow of the Tsar.

This led to the February Revolution, when demonstrators clamouring for bread took to the streets in the Russian capital of Petrograd to show their feelings towards how Russia was currently being governed. Supported by huge crowds of striking industrial workers, the protesters clashed with police but refused to leave the streets. The strike continued to spread among all of Petrograd’s workers, and irate mobs destroyed police stations. Several factories elected deputies to the Petrograd Soviet, or council, of workers’ committees, following the model devised during the 1905 revolution. Soon the troops of the Petrograd army garrison were called out to quell the uprising, however, the revolution soon triumphed when regiment after regiment of the Petrograd garrison defected to the cause of the demonstrators. The soldiers subsequently formed committees that elected deputies to the Petrograd Soviet.

The imperial government was forced to resign, and the Duma formed a provisional government that peacefully vied with the Petrograd Soviet for control of the revolution. On March 14, the Petrograd Soviet issued Order No. 1, which instructed Russian soldiers and sailors to obey only those orders that did not conflict with the directives of the Soviet. The next day, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated the throne which brought an end to the Tsarist autocracy.

In the aftermath of the February Revolution, power was shared between the weak provisional government and the Petrograd Soviet. Then, October 24 and 25 (Julian calendar), leftist revolutionaries led by Bolshevik Party leader Vladimir Lenin launched a nearly bloodless coup d’état against the provisional government. The Bolsheviks and their allies occupied government buildings and other strategic locations in Petrograd, and soon formed a new government with Lenin as its head. Lenin became the virtual dictator of the first Marxist state in the world. His government made peace with Germany, nationalised industry and distributed land.

This course will cover the question of ***‘Historians have disagreed about the Causes of the Russian Revolution (1917). What is your View about the Causes of the Russian Revolution?’***, where pupils form a judgement on which they believe were the main cause(s) of the 1917 Russian Revolution. To help them reach this conclusion they will have to research three historians who commit to three different schools of thought; Soviet, Liberal and Revisionist. Through research they will analyse three primary and three supplementary historians, presenting and debating over the three different views before reaching their own conclusion in a 3,000-4,000 word essay. This option allows pupils to develop their research skills, along with analysing different interpretations before debating and presenting their own judgement based on research from all three schools of thought.