

Britain: 1930-1997

About the topic

Britain 1930-1997 actually breaks down into 2 smaller topics which follow chronologically on from each other:

- Churchill: 1930-1951
- Britain 1951-1997

What will I study?

The focus will be on how Britain changed and modernised, from the interwar period to the election of New Labour in 1997. Through a series of enquiries you will gain a greater understanding of political, social and economic change. There is also the theme of foreign policy and how Britain has handled the transition from Empire to Commonwealth, and how a changing relationship with Europe has been managed by Labour and Conservative governments.

CHURCHILL

Does Winston Churchill deserve the mantle of 'Britain's greatest Prime Minister'?
(What were his opinions and actions, the impacts and consequences?)

Enquiry 1: Were the 'Wilderness Years' the making of Churchill, the Prime Minister? (cause and consequence)

1. Why was Churchill out of office between 1929 and 1940?
2. How did Churchill view the Indian campaign for independence?
3. What were Churchill's views on the Abdication Crisis?
4. What was Churchill's attitude to the rise of Germany?

Enquiry 2: If Churchill led Britain to victory in Europe, why did his 'binding spell' break and lose him office in 1945?

1. How did Churchill arrive at 10 Downing Street?
2. How did Churchill work with his military generals?
3. Were Churchill's wartime decisions effective and justified?
4. How did Churchill conduct himself alongside other wartime leaders?
5. What was Churchill like as a post-war Prime Minister?
6. What was Churchill's approach to the post-war world?

BRITAIN

Overall EQ: How successfully did post-war governments manage British modernisation?
(In what ways, for whom in particular, comparison and contrast over time?)

Enquiry 1: By 1964, had Britain really 'never had it so good?' (Change/Continuity, Similarity/Difference)

1. By 1964, had Britain really 'never had it so good'?
2. Why were the Conservatives able to dominate British politics for so long?
3. Was 1964 when Britain had 'never had it so good' or was Labour right with 'wasted 13 years?'

Enquiry 2: Why wasn't Britain working by 1979?

1. How and why did Labour win the 1964 election?
2. How did Wilson's government transform British society?
3. How did Labour handle the economy during the years 1964-1970?
4. Was Wilson successful with industrial relations?
5. In 1970, which was stronger – Labour weakness or Conservative strength? (LT)
6. Enoch Powell and the 'Rivers of Blood': How accurately did this represent social attitudes?
7. How can the Heath government be defined?
8. Ten years wiser? What did Wilson achieve between 1974 and 1976? (ST)

Enquiry 3: How did the Iron Lady divide Britain?

1. How is Margaret Thatcher interpreted?
2. How did Thatcher transform Britain?
3. How well did Thatcher deal with industrial relations?
4. Why did the Iron Lady resign and was succeeding Thatcher an impossible task for Major?
5. Did the Conservatives lose the 1997 election because of Thatcher's absence of Labour's strength?

Britain's position in the world, 1951-97

- USA and USSR- relations with and policies towards
- UN
- Europe
- Nuclear policy
- Response to crises: Korean War, Suez, Falklands War, First Gulf War
- Decolonisation and changing attitudes to the Commonwealth.

How will I be examined?

Your exam is 1 hour 30 minutes long. You answer:

- 1x source essay worth 30 marks (Churchill depth study). You will be asked to assess how far 4 sources support a given argument, using the sources and your own knowledge.
- 1x essay question worth 20 marks
 - ...how far do you agree?
 - How far...?
 - To what extent...?
 - How successful....?