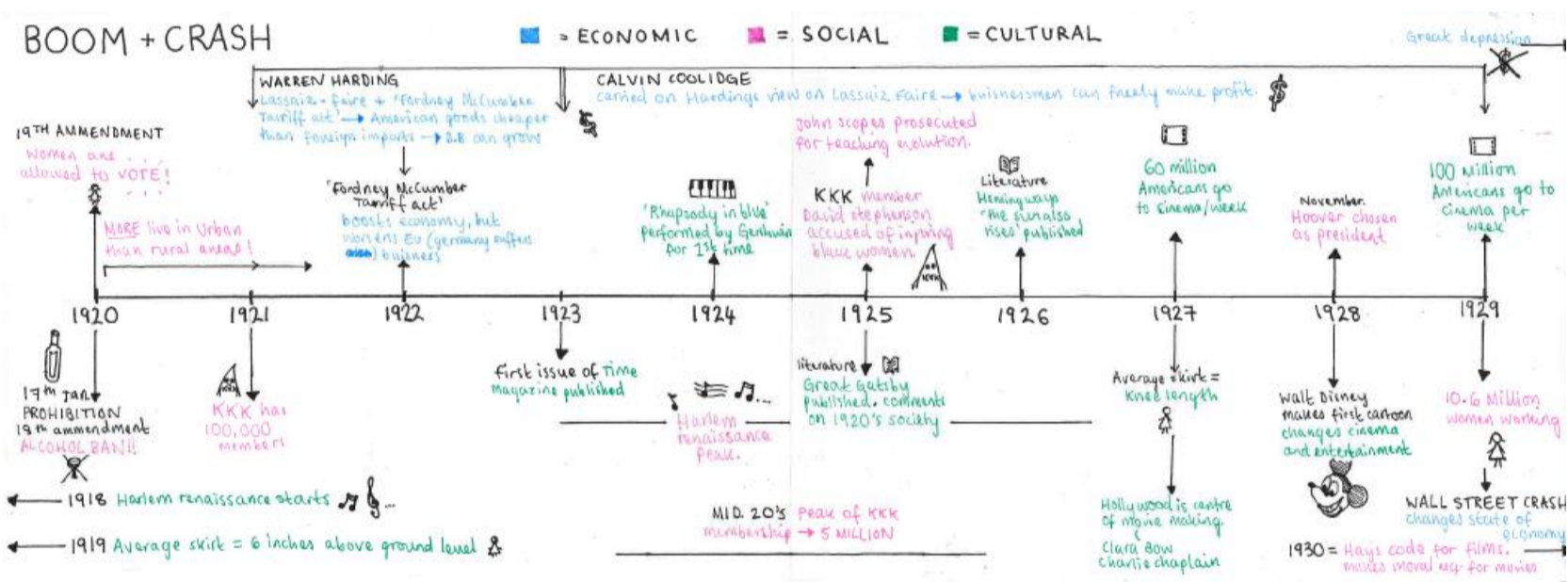


History A Level Induction Task

Over the summer you will be required to complete a couple of tasks to best prepare you for the upcoming History A-Level, as well as to allow your teachers to determine a baseline assessment of your skills and abilities. **Due in:**

1. Create a timeline of the USA 1920-1955. Look at the following factors. You may want to use different colours to help you with this:
 - a. Politics – Who were the key individuals involved in Politics during this period? Who were the Presidents? What are they best known for?
 - b. Economic – What big changes came about in this time period in terms of the United States' economy?
 - c. Social – What changed for certain demographics in America, including women, African-Americans, Native-Americans, and Hispanic-Americans?
 - d. Cultural – What changes came about in American culture during this period – look at the impact of film and music as two big examples.



2. Read through Source 1, annotate the source and answer the following question:

Why is Source 1 valuable to the historian for an enquiry into why an economic boom occurred in the USA in the 1920s?

Explain your answer using the source, the information about it and your own knowledge of the historical context.

Source 1. From 'Why this Prosperity?' an article written by Donald Rea Hanson in *The Forum* magazine, July 1929. Hanson was a financial writer for the *Boston Journal*. The article discusses the causes of the economic boom.

Most of us have some idea as to the causes underlying the prosperity of the past six or eight years, but our views are likely to be colored by the prejudices, the political views and the occupation of the individual expressing the opinion. To the banker it might seem that the great expansion of credit has been the basic cause of our prosperity.

To the head of a labour union it might seem that high wages and the gradual rise in the standard of living were the basic reasons. The manufacturer would explain our prosperity by pointing to the development of mass production. A Wall Street worker would declare that the confidence inspired by the election of President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 was the spark that kindled the flame of prosperity, and the foreign observer would insist that the war, which changed this nation from a debtor to a creditor nation, was the real cause of prosperity.