

HISTORY Y12 INDUCTION TASK

BRITAIN TRANSFORMED, 1918-97

TASK 1 - WHAT CHANGED IN BRITAIN BETWEEN 1918 AND 1997?

Recollect: Before doing any research create a mind map: What do you know about Britain in the 20th century? Once you've had a go, you could ask family or friends what they immediately think about too and add their responses in a different colour. If you need some hints to start you off think about:

- Britain's relationship with the world (empire, warfare, EU)
- Internal conflict/consensus (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, regional differences)
- Politics
- The economy
- Society (Health, housing, education, individual rights, population, class, gender roles)
- Culture (film, theatre, music, television, sport)
- Religion

Research: Once you've poured your knowledge down on paper, start to research what Britain looked like in 1918. Think about looking at a few topics – you don't need to research absolutely everything. Then start to look at what those areas were like in 1997.

Evaluate: Write your answer to the question: What changed in Britain between 1918 and 1997? Use the box on the right to help you think about how to best write about change. It might also help to think about what stayed the same. Aim to write 500-750 words.

Optional stretch challenge: What have historians said about the 20th century? Do you agree or disagree? You might also want to gather some quotations from your family members. How do they feel about Britain in the 20th century? You might get some really interesting generational viewpoints!

TASK 2 - WHO WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PRIME MINISTER OF THE 20th CENTURY?

To complete this task you'll need to approach it in a number of steps:

1. **Research:** What is the role of the Prime Minister? How does someone become PM? What powers do they have in office?
2. **Create:** A timeline of the UK Prime Ministers (include which party they belonged to) between 1918 and 1997. You might also want to add key events of the time period.
3. **Select:** Choose 3 PMs to research in more depth. (Try to pick ones you don't know much about. If you go for Churchill, make sure you look at his post-war term of office.) You could look at the following areas:
 - Foreign Policy
 - Economy
 - Welfare/Society
 - Personality
4. **Evaluate:** Write an essay answering the following question: Who was the most significant Prime Minister of the 20th century? Aim to write between 1000-2000 words. To do this think about the following:

Choose one of the PMs you have researched.

- **Explain** why they are significant (You'll need to think about what it means for something to be significant. There are some ideas on the right but you may have your own suggestions.)
- **Compare** them to at least one or two other PMs. Why is your choice more significant than the others?
- **Evaluate:** What impact did they have on Britain? Why is your view correct?

Good luck and we look forward to seeing your work!

WRITING ABOUT CHANGE

When historians write about change they have to think carefully about the language they use to describe and explain it. As you do this task think about:

- How big was the change? Who experienced this change? Who was least affected by it?
- How fast did the change take place? Was it a sudden change or did it take place slowly? Was there a turning point?
- What caused the change? Was it one event/factor or many?

WRITING ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE

It's not enough to just say that something is significant. We have to use criteria to help us measure significance. Many historians have come up with their own suggestions. Christine Counsell suggested that something is significant if it meets one or more of the following 5 Rs:

- **Remarkable:** *The event was remarked upon by people at the time and/or since.*
- **Remembered:** *A group of people at some point in history thought the event was important to remember.*
- **Resonant:** *People feel a particular connection with the event because of their own experiences/beliefs.*
- **Resulting in change:** *It had consequences for the future.*
- **Revealing:** *It reveals something about an aspect of the past.*

You could choose to use these ideas or come up with your own!