



HISTORY

A LEVEL

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT:

Due first lesson in September 2023 – bring a hard copy to your teacher. There are two tasks:

Task 1

To prepare you for your first study unit: the USA 1917–1996, we offer you a choice of five topics (below) to research and then write an essay. Choose ONE and use the suggested resources to help you. Propose arguments and counter-arguments for your chosen question and write a conclusion. Please don't cut and paste answers. c1500 words.

Was the sinking of the Lusitania the reason the USA joined the First World War in 1917?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y59wErqg4Xg>

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1914-1920/wwi>

<https://www.historyhit.com/5-reasons-us-entered-ww1/>

How true is it that Americans were opposed to entry into the First World War in 1917?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6z4vdenXbo>

<https://zinnedproject.org/materials/protesting-the-first-world-war/>

<https://wwionline.org/wwi-online/articles/opposition-war-united-states>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-the-first-world-war-arrival-of-the-american-troops>

To what extent did WW1 improve the status of women in the USA?

<https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/women>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-role-of-american-women-before-during-after-wwi.html>

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/women-in-wwi>



‘The status of African Americans was advanced by their involvement in WW1.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-world-war-i-planted-seeds-civil-rights-movement-180974039/>

<https://time.com/5450336/african-american-veterans-wwi/>

<https://armyhistory.org/fighting-for-respect-african-american-soldiers-in-wwi/>

Please feel free to use other resources too.



Task 2

In addition, to prepare for next year you need to do the following:

This task is designed to give you an excellent introduction to the Paper 1 course: 'In search of the American Dream: the USA c1917–96.'

Your task: you are going to complete a 'Presidential fact file' for every American president from Woodrow Wilson to Bill Clinton. For each president, you may want to consider the following key facts:

- Brief background and political experience
- Years in power, party affiliation, electoral campaign(s)
- Key beliefs, policies, speeches, events (give relevant examples)
- Context: what was happening both in the country and in the world during each administration? In what ways did the political landscape impact on the presidency?
- Any additional information you think is important and relevant

Use the following websites and resources to help you.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/>

<https://millercenter.org/president>

<https://www.biography.com/us-president/lyndon-b-johnson>

Documentaries:

<https://www.thirteen.org/blog-post/presidents-documentaries/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnVwvPpdFeY>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03n2f78>

Extension task (not compulsory):

Once you've completed your research, use your information to think about, plan and answer the following questions:

Who was the most and the least successful president of the era, and why? (Consider criteria for what constitutes 'success' here e.g., successful domestic and/or foreign policy, unity/division within the country, relationship with media, impact and legacy).