

Welcome to A Level History!

The Tudors, 1485-1603:

The American Dream, 1945–1980:

NEA Coursework:

Component 1: Breadth study

What's assessed

The study of significant historical developments over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations.

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- three questions (one compulsory)
- 80 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

- two sections
- Section A – one compulsory question linked to historical interpretations (30 marks)
- Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)

+ Component 2: Depth study

What's assessed

The study in depth of a period of major historical change or development and associated primary evidence.

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- three questions (one compulsory)
- 80 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

- two sections
- Section A – one compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period (30 marks)
- Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)

+ Component 3: Historical investigation

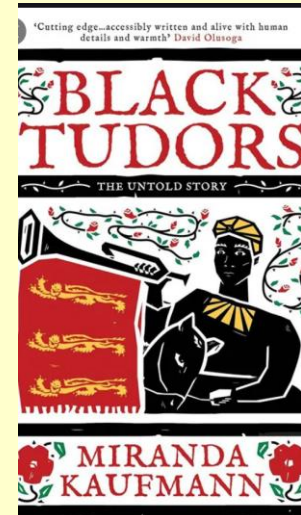
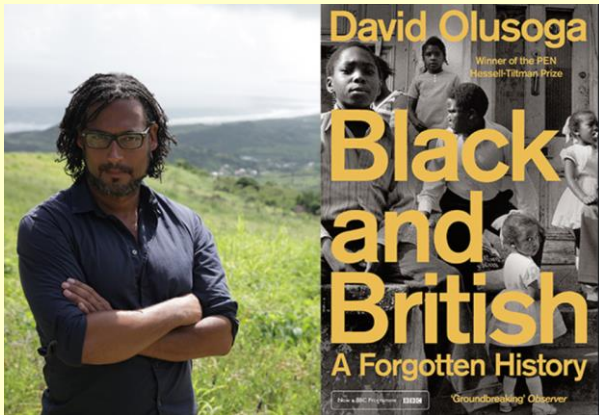
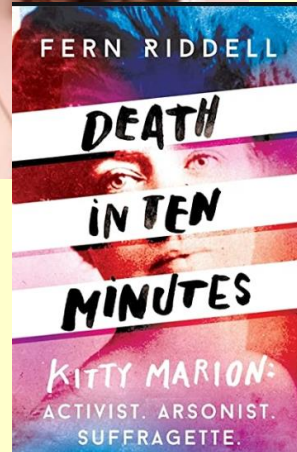
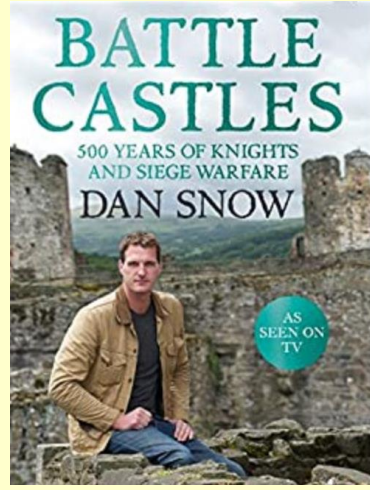
What's assessed

A personal study based on a topic of student's choice. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years. It must not duplicate the content of options chosen for Components 1 and 2.

Assessed

- 3,000–3,500 words
- 40 marks
- 20% of A-level
- marked by teachers
- moderated by AQA

What is an historian? What do they do?



👑 AQA A-Level History: The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

⚔️ Power. Rebellion. Religion. Intrigue. This is history with the drama turned all the way up!



🏰 What is this course all about?

The Tudors weren't just monarchs — they were **nation builders, rule breakers, and survivors**.

Over just 118 years, England was transformed from a fragile kingdom after civil war into a major European power. You'll explore how the Tudor dynasty:

- Seized and secured the throne
- Took on the Pope and reshaped religion
- Faced rebellions and threats to their survival
- Controlled (and sometimes lost control of) the people

This is a course about **how power works** — and how it can be used, challenged, and even overturned.



🌀 What will you study?

👑 1. Monarchs and Ministers

- How Henry VII built a new dynasty after defeating Richard III
- Henry VIII's break with Rome — and the creation of the Church of England
- Powerful advisors like Thomas Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, and William Cecil
- Elizabeth I's skill in managing religion, court politics, and national threats

✝️ 2. Religion and Division

- The rollercoaster ride of religious change: Catholic → Protestant → Catholic → Protestant again
- Bloody Mary and the Marian burnings
- Elizabeth's "Middle Way" — and resistance from Catholics and Puritans
- How religion became a battleground for identity and loyalty

🔥 3. Rebellion and Resistance

- Why people rose up in protest: taxes, religion, food shortages
- Major uprisings like the **Pilgrimage of Grace** and the **Northern Rebellion**
- How the Tudors put down revolts and tightened their grip on power

👤🏡 4. Society and Economy

- What life was like for ordinary people in towns and the countryside
- The rise in poverty, vagrancy, and poor laws
- Enclosure of land and the growth of trade and exploration
- Social change through education, population growth, and new ideas



🧠 Why it matters today

This course isn't just about kings and queens. It's about:

- **How power is built and challenged** — just like today's politics
- **What happens when religion and government clash**
- **How ordinary people resist injustice**
- **How leaders use image, spin, and fear to stay in control**

From political propaganda to religious division, you'll see **how the Tudor world mirrors the modern one** — from protest movements to media manipulation.



🌟 What skills will you gain?

This isn't just storytelling (though it's full of drama). It trains you to:

- Ask sharp questions and analyse complex sources
- Build compelling, evidence-based arguments
- Understand how change happens — and why it matters
- Write clearly and powerfully about big ideas

These are skills that set you up for success in **law, politics, journalism, education, business, and more.**

🎯 In short...

The Tudors: England, 1485–1603 is history at its most gripping — packed with ambition, betrayal, power struggles, rebellion, and transformation.

- 👁️ Study it because it's fascinating.
- 💬 Study it because it sharpens your thinking.
- 🔥 Study it because it's the origin story of modern Britain.



AQA A-Level History (Paper 2Q): The American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945–1980

Discover the truth behind the world's most famous promise.



🌀 What will you study?

1. Politics: How powerful is the President – and who really controls America?

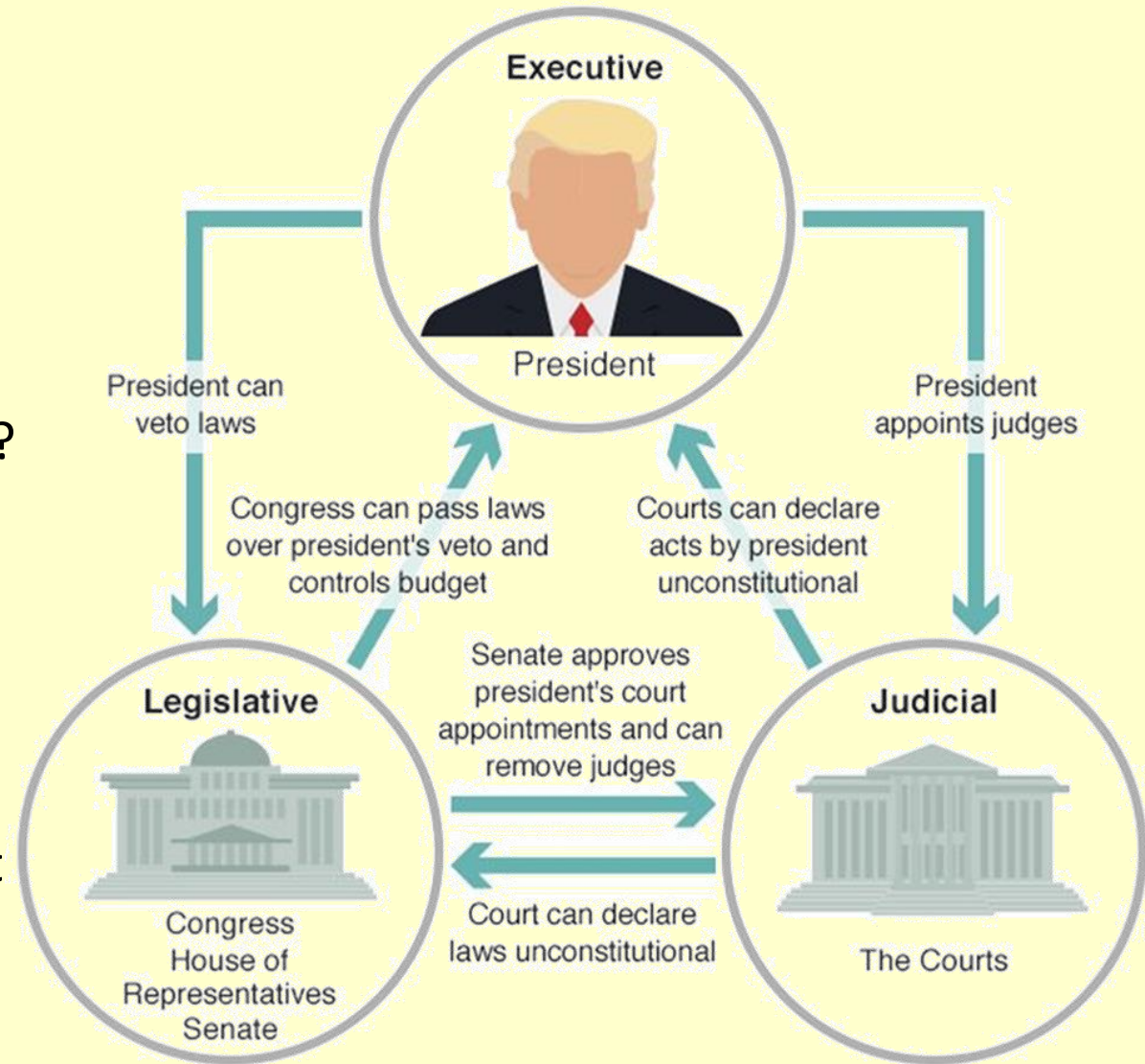
You'll study the post-war presidents — **Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford** — and how they tried to lead a changing country.

- Did they expand or limit freedom?
- How did presidential power grow (and get abused)?
- What happened during major scandals like **Watergate**?
- How did the **Cold War** shape every political decision?

📌 **Key concepts:** power, leadership, democracy, trust in government

🔗 **Today's links:** presidential authority, political scandal, public trust in politics

Checks and balances on the US government



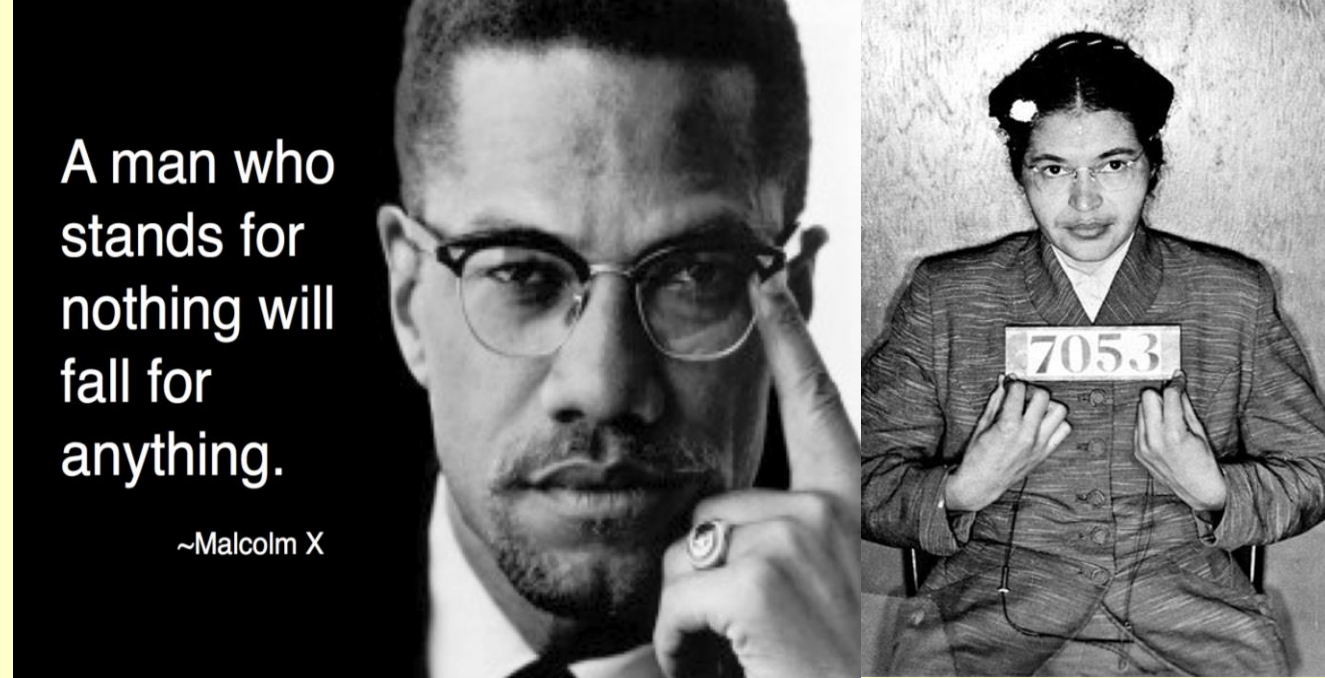
2. Civil Rights: Who gets to live the American Dream?

You'll trace the struggle of **African Americans** and other minority groups to gain equal rights in a country that promised freedom — but often denied it.

- The rise of **Martin Luther King Jr.**, the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**, and the **March on Washington**
- The push for **civil rights laws** in the 1960s — and the resistance to them
- The rise of **Black Power** and more radical activism
- The challenges faced by **Latino Americans, Native Americans, and women**

📌 **Key concepts:** equality, justice, protest, identity

🔗 **Today's links:** Black Lives Matter, racial inequality, feminism, protest movements



3. Society: How did America change at home?

America in this period saw dramatic shifts in how people lived, worked, and related to each other.

- The growth of **consumer culture**: cars, TV, advertising, suburbs
- The experience of **young people**: from rock and roll to rebellion, including protests and counterculture (e.g. hippies, student movements)
- Changing roles for **women**: the rise of second-wave feminism
- The tension between traditional values and radical change

✦ **Key concepts**: social change, identity, culture, generational conflict

🔗 **Today's links**: youth culture, gender roles, consumerism, culture wars



50s ROCK 'N' ROLL



4. Foreign Policy: How did America use its global power — and at what cost?

America emerged from WWII as a superpower, but with great power came difficult choices

- The deepening of the **Cold War**: arms race, containment, paranoia
- American intervention in **Vietnam**: why it happened, how it failed, and what it did to American society
- Growing public backlash: **anti-war protests**, media scrutiny, loss of confidence
- ✦ **Key concepts**: war, ideology, global influence, national identity
- 🔗 **Today's links**: U.S. foreign policy, military intervention, public opinion on war

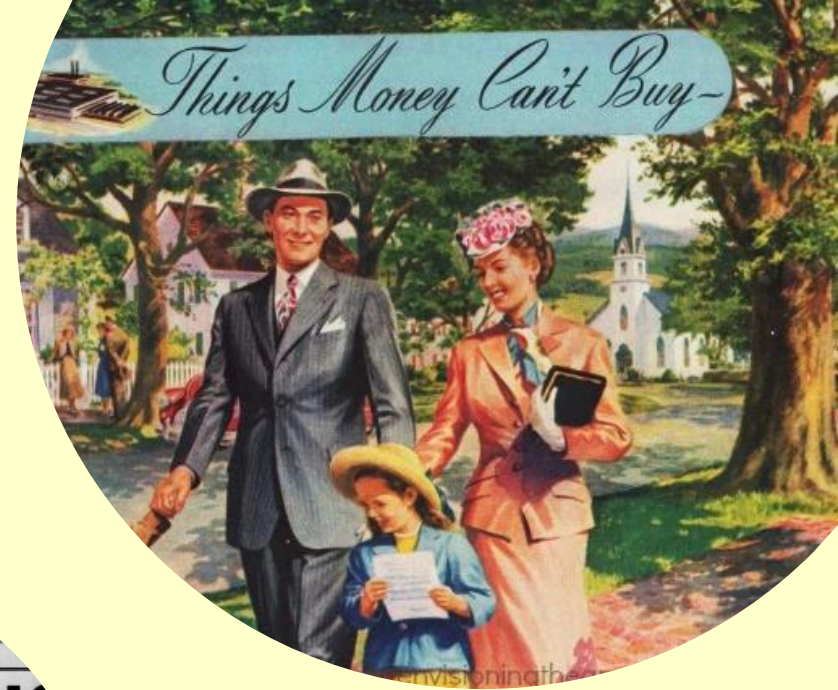


The American Dream: 1945-1980:

🧠 What themes tie it all together?

This course isn't just a list of events. It's about **big questions** that still matter:

- Is freedom just a word — or a lived experience?
- Who holds power — and who gets left behind?
- Can a democracy survive division, inequality, and scandal?



Why this course is exciting and relevant

Even if you've never studied American history before, this topic is gripping, human, and powerful. It's packed with:

- Famous figures and moments you'll recognise (MLK, Kennedy, Nixon, Vietnam)
- Protests, assassinations, culture wars, and civil rights battles
- Real people fighting for justice, fairness, and equality

And it all helps you understand **how America became the nation it is today — and why that matters for the world.**

This course gives you:

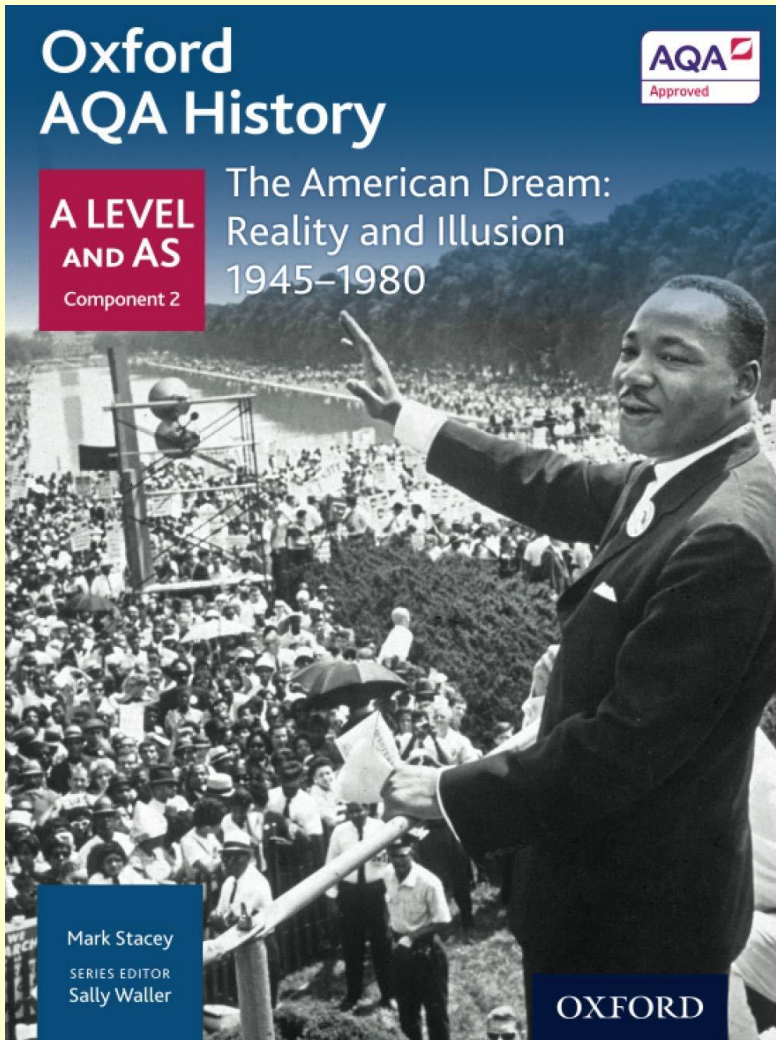
- Knowledge of one of the world's most influential countries
- Critical thinking and analytical writing skills
- A deeper understanding of protest, power, identity, and change

Coursework- you decide: This is your chance to immerse yourself into your favourite period of time. All students will conduct independent research to complete a 3000–4000 word essay on a topic of their choice, which may arise out of content studied elsewhere in the course. This is completed in lesson time and counts for 20% of your A Level.

Previous chosen topics include:

- *The French Revolution*
- *The American Civil War*
- *The Wars of the Roses*
 - *The Crusades*
- *Development of the Feminist Movement*
 - *The impact of the tobacco industry*
- *British Black History and the Georgian Slave Trade*
 - *The Vietnam War*

Textbooks- You will be asked to buy your own textbooks in September. If you know you are **definitely** doing this course, then you can buy them over the summer. Ebay/Amazon second hand is great, you don't need to buy them new.



**Oxford AQA
History for A
Level:**

**The
American
Dream:
reality or
illusion,
1945-1980**

Sally Waller



**Hodder
AQA A-level
History:**

**The Tudors:
England,
1485-1603**

**David
Ferriby**

Summer transition work: suitability

- To be accepted onto the History course, you **MUST** complete these tasks **before the summer holidays and email to Mrs Carew-Rendall by Monday the 7th July.** (scarew@coombedean.co.uk)
- We expect you to complete the work below to show you have completed the background research and are capable of studying at A Level. *Failure to complete this work to a sufficient standard may result in you not being able to join the course.*
- These tasks will take a total time of **approximately 8-9 hours**, please do not leave this to the last minute! *You need to show you can manage your own time to be suitable for A level History- this task is a test of your suitability.*

TASK 1: SENECA

- Complete the **Seneca assignments set**- see the hyperlinks or see below. You will need to set up an account on Seneca if you don't already have one. The class code is **mmamapb3gw** and links to assignments are below.
www.senecalearning.com
- **Total time = 2-3 hours**

TASK 2: TIMELINES

- **Using the timelines you have been given for each topic**, research **every event** and create your own timeline with a **detailed description of each event.**
- **Total time = 4-6 hours**
- **Email your timelines to Mrs Carew-Rendall by the 15th July.** If you have completed it by hand, take a photo and upload. Teachers will check the logs and scores on Seneca. scarew@coombedean.co.uk

On your whiteboards...

Study the source and complete the 3Cs

Content- what can you see?

Comment- what does it suggest?

Context- what do you know?

Editorial Cartoon 1 – No Title
The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Nov 25, 1963;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post (1877-1996)
pg. A14

Long Shadow



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Watch the primary source clip: live news reporting. 5Ws.

Who assassinated JFK?

A History murder mystery!

Your task:

- Using the summary and primary sources, reach an informed judgement.
- **Who do you think shot JFK? Why?**
- You may write this up and present it however you wish.
- This task should take **25 minutes**. You should complete it in the post 16 study area.
- Once complete, submit your task to **Mrs Stapleton , today, by 3:10pm!**



See you in September!