

KS5 Curriculum Overview - The Making of a Superpower : USA 1865 - 1975

Topics	The era of Reconstruction and the Gilded Age 1865 - 1890	Populism, Progressivism and Imperialism 1890 - 1920	Crisis of identity 1920 - 1945	The Superpower 1945 - 1975
Focus of Historical Enquiry	The ways in which Americans rebuilt after the Civil War. This was the period in which Republicans competed over how the South should be run, and northerners and black and white southerners vied for control of southern state governments. In Washington, DC, presidential authority seemed to be weakening. Meanwhile, America's economy grew rapidly but unevenly	How the USA became a global power, and the reasons why it decided to retreat from the global stage immediately afterwards. Also the way in which American politicians, only to a certain extent led by their presidents, introducing progressive ideas into American politics	How a self-confident, economically booming USA reacted to the economic disaster of the 1930s, and then transformed itself into a reluctant superpower	The way in which Americans, particularly American presidents, assumed leadership of the free world. From its previous isolationism, the USA found itself one of two Superpowers. Domestically, the economy boomed so effectively that even in recession things were not as bad as they may have been. Socially, the idea of being American changed, especially for African-Americans, who has a new civic recognition. The power of the presidency grew and grew - until a president tried to set himself above the law, and failed
What Content will we Cover?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The weakness of federal government and the failure of Radical Reconstruction ● The end of Reconstruction and the era of weak presidents during the Gilded Age ● Social, geographical and racial divisions in American Society ● Developments in agriculture and industry leading to economic growth ● The limits of isolationism and the Monroe Doctrine showing the United States relationship with the world ● The end of the frontier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Republican dominance of politics, political tensions and divisions and the Republican presidency from 1890 - 1912 ● The Democratic Party, political tensions and Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom in 1896 - 1917 ● The rise and dominance of the US as an economic & industrial power ● The effects of immigration and urbanisation or American society and the position of African-Americans before the First World War ● American engagement in the First World War and engagement in international affairs ● The United States by 1920 and the impact of WW1 in causing renewed isolationism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Republican Conservatism in the years 1920 - 1932 ● The victory of Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deals ● Boom, bust and recovery of the US economy through the Wall Street Crash and the impact of the New Deals ● The Jazz Age and social developments from 1920 - 1941, with the position of African-Americans and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan ● The extent of American isolationism in this period ● The impact of the Second World War and the position of the United States by 1945 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post WW2 reconstruction and the presidencies of Truman and Eisenhower ● Domestic politics 1961 - 1974 and the presidencies of Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon ● The Age of Affluence in the American economy ● Ideological, social, regional and ethnic divisions in society during this time and the progress of civil rights ● The United States and the world during the Cold War and the balance of power ● The 'Troubled Giant' of the United States by 1975
Skill Development	Interpretation - Evaluation of historical extracts, through the understanding of historical context, to assess how convincing the argument are in relation to a specific topic / question			
	A03 - Analyse and evaluate , in relation to the historical context, different ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted			
	Y12 Term 1 & 2	Y12 Term 3	Y13 Term 1 & 2	Y13 Term 3
	Knowledge Test / Keyword Test	Knowledge Test / Keyword Test	Knowledge Test / Keyword Test	Knowledge Test / Keyword Test
Assessment	The problems of the economy were the most important factor in the end of reconstruction 1865 - 1877	The main reason for republican dominance 1896 to 1912 was due to the democratic parties weakness and division	Republican policies 1896 - 1932 was the main cause of the depression	The United States went through a social revolution between 1941 - 1975. How far do you agree with this assessment