

History A Level Transition Work Schedule

As with all History study, the best way to prepare is to complete a wide range of contextual reading. Here is a more structured guide of how you could be breaking up your time to prepare for your History A Level Studies.

American Dream Unit

Week 1- America and its Government System

How does the American political system work? You need to have a solid understanding of this to get to grips with the political aspects of the American Dream course. Research, read and watch YouTube videos to help you get to grips with how the system works. You need to know the 3 different branches of government, how they work across the country, what state government means.

Then create your own flow diagram showing how the American Government works.

Week 2- America and World War One

To understand where the course starts in 1917, you need to go back slightly to see America's involvement in World War One. Research, read and watch YouTube videos on America's involvement in the First World War. Why did they get involved so late? What was President Woodrow Wilson's attitude towards the war? How did the American people feel about the war?

Write up your findings to show your contextual understanding of America in World War One.

Week 3- America in the 1920's

Watch John Green's Crash Course History on 1920's America

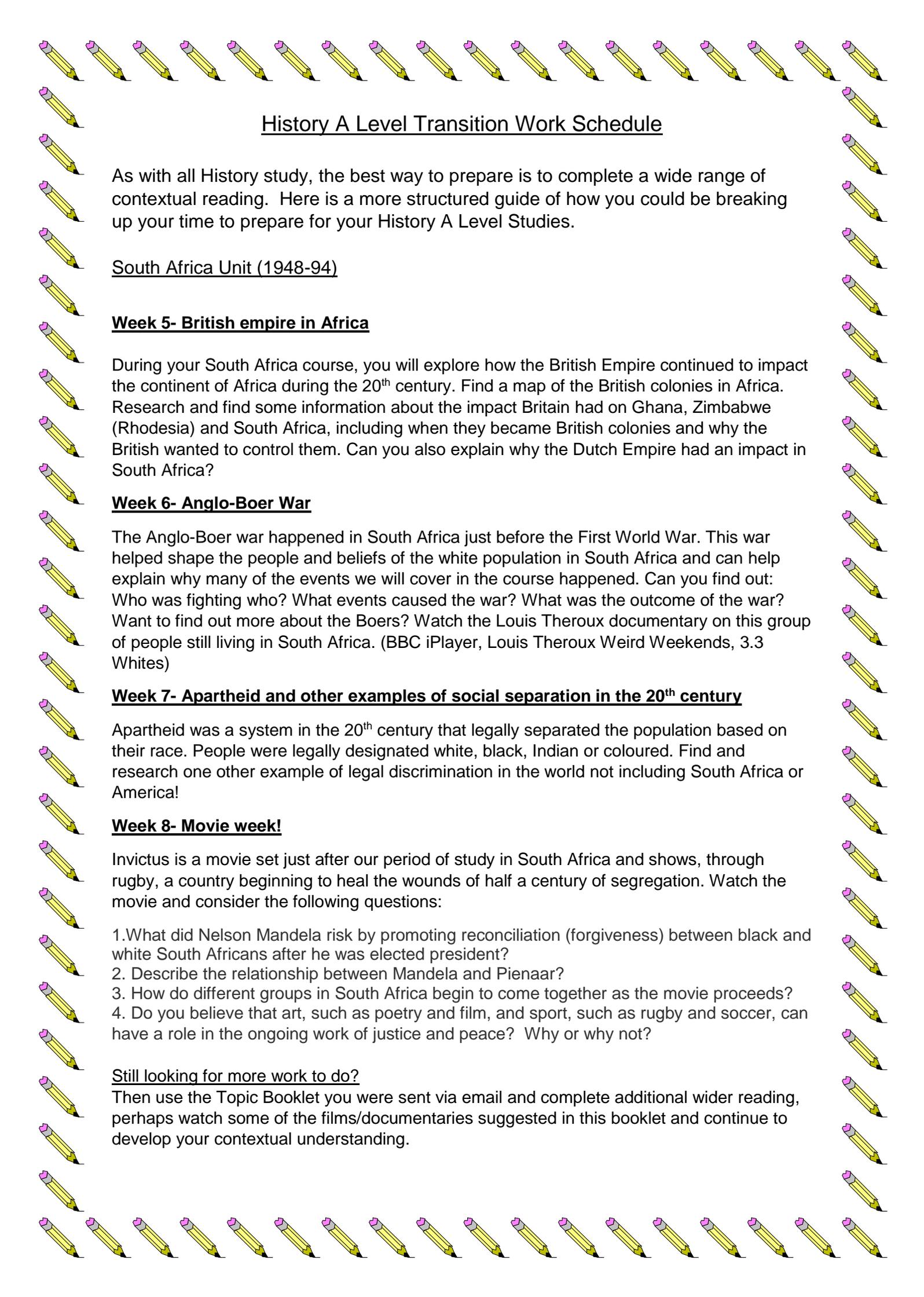
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfOR1XCMf7A>) as you watch make notes on what he is talking about. Try to build a clear understanding of America in the 1920's. Then create your own 'Pinterest board' of America in the 1920's. Consider a range of different perspectives- social class, minority groups, government, news headlines etc. Try to get a real feel for America in the 1920's and what life was like for people.

Week 4- Movie week!

Watch the film The Great Gatsby (original or remake). What does this show you about America at the time? How does it support/contradict what you found out about America in the 1920's? Use this film as a basis to develop and further your research of America in the 1920's. Does it show you things you did not cover before e.g. prohibition?

Still looking for more work to do?

Then use the Topic Booklet you were sent via email and complete additional wider reading, perhaps watch some of the films/documentaries suggested in this booklet and continue to develop your contextual understanding.



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South Africa Unit (1948-94)

Week 5- British empire in Africa

During your South Africa course, you will explore how the British Empire continued to impact the continent of Africa during the 20th century. Find a map of the British colonies in Africa. Research and find some information about the impact Britain had on Ghana, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and South Africa, including when they became British colonies and why the British wanted to control them. Can you also explain why the Dutch Empire had an impact in South Africa?

Week 6- Anglo-Boer War

The Anglo-Boer war happened in South Africa just before the First World War. This war helped shape the people and beliefs of the white population in South Africa and can help explain why many of the events we will cover in the course happened. Can you find out: Who was fighting who? What events caused the war? What was the outcome of the war? Want to find out more about the Boers? Watch the Louis Theroux documentary on this group of people still living in South Africa. (BBC iPlayer, Louis Theroux Weird Weekends, 3.3 Whites)

Week 7- Apartheid and other examples of social separation in the 20th century

Apartheid was a system in the 20th century that legally separated the population based on their race. People were legally designated white, black, Indian or coloured. Find and research one other example of legal discrimination in the world not including South Africa or America!

Week 8- Movie week!

Invictus is a movie set just after our period of study in South Africa and shows, through rugby, a country beginning to heal the wounds of half a century of segregation. Watch the movie and consider the following questions:

1. What did Nelson Mandela risk by promoting reconciliation (forgiveness) between black and white South Africans after he was elected president?
2. Describe the relationship between Mandela and Pienaar?
3. How do different groups in South Africa begin to come together as the movie proceeds?
4. Do you believe that art, such as poetry and film, and sport, such as rugby and soccer, can have a role in the ongoing work of justice and peace? Why or why not?

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