

SOCIAL CHANGE AND REFORM IN WALES AND ENGLAND c. 1890-1990

THEME 1: Tackling poverty and unemployment, c.1890-1990

PART 1 - Chronology chart

This is a suggested timeline for the theme of tackling poverty and unemployment, c.1890-1990. The content coverage is derived from the specification.

1890-1918	1919-1945	1945-1990
The condition of the working classes c.1890	The post-war slump	The reforms of the Labour government, 1945-1951
The main causes of unemployment before 1914	Government reaction to the problems of the 1920s	Poverty and unemployment 1951-1979
Self-help and the debate over poverty	Unemployment during the Depression: the causes, extent and regional variations	The impact of the Thatcher governments 1979-1990
The impact of the Boer War	The effects of the Depression	
The Liberal reforms 1906-1914	The policies of the National Government during the 1930s	

PART 2 - a conceptual guide

This provides a conceptual guide for the theme of tackling poverty and unemployment, c.1890-1990 which attempts to demonstrate how each concept underpins the period, how concepts are linked and the significance of these concepts. The aim is not to focus on the content of events but to provide appropriate guidance regarding historical concepts as appropriate.

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	1890-1918	1918-1945	1945-1990
Cause and Consequence	<p>Causes of unemployment before 1914</p> <p>The impact of the Boer War</p> <p>The work of Booth and Rowntree</p>	<p>The social and economic impact of war in the 1920s</p> <p>The formation of the National Government, 1931</p>	<p>The demand for social reform by 1945</p>
Significant individuals	<p>Charles Booth</p> <p>Seebhom Rowntree</p> <p>David Lloyd George</p>	<p>Stanley Baldwin</p> <p>Ramsay MacDonald</p>	<p>Clement Attlee</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher</p>
Turning points	<p>The Liberal reforms 1906-1914</p> <p>The National Insurance Act 1911</p>	<p>The formation of the National Government 1931</p>	<p>The creation of a welfare state 1945-1951</p>
Key Terminology associated with the theme	<p>National Efficiency</p> <p>Poverty line</p> <p>Humanitarian concerns</p> <p>Children's Charter</p>	<p>Means testing</p>	<p>Welfare State</p> <p>Thatcherism</p>
Similarity and Difference	<p>Changing attitudes towards the poor 1890-1914</p> <p><i>Comparison during a sub-period and even over the whole period can feature</i></p>	<p><i>Regional variations during the depression</i></p>	<p>The relative success of the welfare state after 1945</p>

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Change and Continuity

The extent of change in attitudes towards poverty

*Teachers should address how far and how quickly these issues changed **over the whole period***

The extent of success of various governments in dealing with social and economic problems facing the country

The social and economic impact of the creation of a Welfare State

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CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

Causes of unemployment before 1914	Centres should examine the root causes of unemployment including the attitudes towards the undeserving poor which were held by some in this period. Centres should look at the problems facing Britain's industrial power at the turn of the century and the fractured nature of British society at this time which were also important factors.
The impact of the Boer War	Centres should focus on the impact of the Boer War including the mounting cost of the conflict. Negative reports of the conduct of British troops as well as the realization that many of the recruits were unfit for duty further enhanced the call for social reform.
The work of Booth and Rowntree	Centres should focus on the reaction to the works of Charles Booth and Seebhom Rowntree. The surveys of both were scientific rather than emotionally based studies and were fundamental in changing attitudes towards those living in poverty.
The social and economic impact of war in the 1920s	Centres should focus on the social and economic consequences of war in the 1920s including effects on class structure, the economy and on the idea of government intervention. The consequences can be seen in the government responses to economic and social problems in the 1920s in areas such as housing and unemployment.
The formation of the National Government	Centres should focus on the economic difficulties and tough decisions that needed to be taken in the wake of the effects of the Wall Street Crash and subsequent depression in Britain. The May report recommendations should be discussed as well as the effects on society of the policies of the National Government during a time of hardship and decline.
The social and economic impact of war by 1945	Centres should focus on the social and economic impact of war by 1945: namely on class structure, the economy and the effect that war had on the idea of government intervention to tackle the five giants as addressed by the Beveridge report of 1942.

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SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

Charles Booth	Candidates should be aware of the impact of the work of Charles Booth. In 1887 he published details of his investigation into the suffering of the poor in the London district of Tower Hamlets.. He claimed that one third of the population was living below the poverty line. Booth went on to conduct a series of investigations between 1891 and 1903.
Seebhom Rowntree	Candidates should examine the impact of the work of Seebhom Rowntree: He paralleled the investigations of Booth by studying poverty in York and publishing his findings in 1901. These investigations provided factual evidence about the extent of poverty and demonstrated that unemployment and poverty could not be viewed solely as a result of vice or laziness.
David Lloyd George	Lloyd George was a fervent supporter of government intervention in order to directly help improve life for the lower classes. His tenure as Chancellor of the Exchequer saw him oversee the completion of the old age pensions legislation and the Budget of 1909. The impact and significance of these should be examined by Centres.
Stanley Baldwin and Ramsay MacDonald	Centres should seek to assess the actions of these inter-war Prime Ministers during the depression years especially the extent to which their governments successfully alleviated the problems facing the unemployed.
Clement Attlee	Centres should examines the role of Attlee's Labour Government in creating the welfare state including the roles of Aneurin Bevan, Ernest Bevin, Hugh Gaitskell and Sir Stafford Cripps. Centres should assess the extent to which their work successfully solved the problems that post-war Britain faced in 1945.
Margaret Thatcher	Centres should assess whether the so called 'Thatcher revolution' led to the triumph of private greed over the public good and whether Britain began a move away from a culture of dependence.

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TURNING POINTS

The Liberal reforms 1906-1914	Centres should be aware that the failure to develop a policy of social reform to meet the needs of the lower classes was one of the main reasons for the decline in the position of the Unionist Government by 1905. The Liberals were determined not to make the same mistake and after they formed the government in 1905 they started a programme of social reform. Their main priorities centered on improving the lives of children of the poorest families, the elderly without means of independent support and the problems of poverty resulting from sickness and unemployment. This new approach was a major turning point in the provision of social reform policy.
The National Insurance Act 1911	Centres should focus on the importance of the Act as facilitating social reform and how its passage into legislation showed the division in society as to how best deal with the problems of poverty and illness. This was key legislation which was an indication of a turn from laissez faire attitudes to a more collectivist approach where there was an increased acceptance that it was the role of government to help those who could not help themselves.
The formation of the National Government 1931	Centres should focus on the reasons for the formation of this coalition government. They should also consider why it was a turning point by looking at its relative successes and failures in relation to its social and economic policies during the 1930s, including cutting unemployment benefit, coming off the Gold Standard in 1931, the Special Areas Act of 1935 and 1937 and the Unemployment Act of 1934.
The creation of a welfare state 1945-1951	Centres should examine the work of the Labour Governments in tackling the problems that faced Britain at the end of the Second World War. Centres should look at what these problems were, highlighted in part by the 1942 Beveridge report, and how the Labour Government tackled the issues of health, unemployment, sickness and poverty. The welfare state became a cornerstone of British social policy and confirmed the intention of Britain to become a state that looked after the interest of all its citizens especially those that could not help themselves.

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KEY TERMINOLOGY

National Efficiency	Centres should examine the debate concerning National Efficiency at the turn of the century. The social and economic condition of Britain was a cause of concern, highlighted by the poor performance of the British economy. Poverty was also preventing growth and this concern as well as the impact of the Boer war was providing ample fodder for social and political discussions.
Poverty Line	The level of income needed to support the minimum requirements of life in terms of food, accommodation was popularized in Britain by the work of Charles Booth who claimed that 10-20 shillings per week was the minimum amount required for a family of 4-5 to subsist upon. The definition was also the focus of the work of Seebom Rowntree.
Humanitarian concerns	A growing concern for the human condition and especially for those thought to be unable to protect themselves. These concerns were highlighted by social surveys of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century which changed the way people looked at poverty as it was gradually accepted that poverty was not wholly the fault of the individual and that help was needed if people were to better themselves.
Children's Charter	The welfare of children became a hot topic between 1906-1908. The Education Act of 1906 (Provision of Meals) addressed some of the issues as did the Act of 1907 making medical inspection for children in schools compulsory. The Children's Act of 1908 was an attempt to address a variety of measures to deal with neglect and abuse. Collectively known as 'the Children's Charter' these changes were intended to help children get a better start in life.
Means testing	A means test is a determination of whether an individual or family is eligible for government assistance, based upon whether the individual or family possesses the means to do without that help. This was thought to be a fairer way of determining who should get unemployment benefit in Britain and was administered from 1934 onwards by the Unemployment Assistance Board.
Welfare State	Centres should make candidates aware of what a 'welfare state' is. They should consider the role of the Liberal reforms after 1906 as well as the Labour Government of 1945-1951 in creating a 'Welfare State'

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Thatcherism

An concept based on the economic and social policies associated with the beliefs of Margaret Thatcher. Centres need to look at the Thatcher era in the terms of its effect on unemployment and poverty and judge whether the Thatcher era made things better or worse in terms of living standards, especially in the post-industrial urban areas where there were particular difficulties.

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SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE

Changing attitudes towards the poor 1890-1914	Centres should examine how attitudes towards the poor changed in this period 1890-1914. The extent of humanitarian concerns along with growing public perception about the negative effects on society, trade and general national efficiency should be assessed.
Regional variations during the depression	Centres should compare the regional variations during the depression years. They could consider the debate about the period being the 'Hungry Thirties' or 'The dawn of affluence'. Was it overall a time of economic failure and decline, except for a few pockets of affluence, or a time of economic success, except for some areas of special hardship?
The relative success of welfare policies after 1945	Centres should examine the work of the Labour Governments in tackling the problems that faced Britain at the end of the Second World War. They should also consider the legislation and policies which were designed to tackle poverty and unemployment between 1951-1979. Centres also need to evaluate the Thatcher era in the terms of its effect on unemployment and poverty. In summary, centres could consider whether Britain was more effective in tackling poverty and unemployment in 1990 compared to 1945.

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CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

The extent of change in attitudes towards poverty	In order to consider issues of change and continuity across the whole period, centres should examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to what extent the problem of unemployment and poverty was addressed over the period.• that the pace of change has fluctuated over time• that the definition of poverty has also been the subject of debate• how and why attitudes towards unemployment and poverty have changed over time.
The extent of success of various governments in dealing with social and economic problems facing the country	In order to consider issues of change and continuity across the whole period, centres should examine the extent to which the problems facing the unemployed and those in poverty have been addressed by various Governments over the period: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Liberal government reforms 1906-1914• the impact of the reforms of inter-war governments of the 1920s and 1930s• the Labour welfare reforms of 1945-1951• further reforms between 1951-1979• the 'Thatcher revolution 1979-1990
The social and economic impact of the creation of a Welfare State	In order to consider issues of change and continuity across the whole period, centres should examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the social legislation that occurred prior to the First World War and during the inter-war period 1918-1939• the impact of the welfare state on the unemployment rate and on those living in 'poverty' in the post Second world war period:• a period of relative prosperity and full employment from the mid 1950s to the late 1960s• Thatcherism placed more emphasis on personal responsibility and moving away from the 'nanny state' and the culture of dependence.

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Part 3 Resources

Books			
Author	Title	Publisher	ISBN
Derrick Murphy	Britain 1914-2000	Flagship History	0-00-327131-5
Rosemary Rees	Britain 1890-1939	Heinemann	0-435-32757-7
Christopher Rowe	Britain 1890-1939	Heinemann	0-435-32738-0
Michael Lynch	Modern British History 1900-1999	Hodder and Stoughton	0-340-77525-4
Mike Byrne	Britain 1890-1924	Hodder Education	978-0-340-96584-9
Ian Cawood	Britain in the Twentieth Century	Routledge	9780415254571

AUDIO - VISUAL RESOURCES

The Making of Modern Britain by Andrew Marr (2010) various episodes 1-6 BBC

How Green was my Valley (1941)

The Improbable Mr Attlee- Available through Youtube.com

Internet sites

Welfare State

General overview

Liberal reforms 1906-14

The welfare State

Social Reform

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/field_01.shtml

<http://spartacus-educational.com>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/britain/liberalreformsrev1.shtml>

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/brave_new_world/welfare.htm

http://www.history.org.uk/resources/secondary_resource_4701,4710_124.html

SOCIAL CHANGE AND REFORM IN WALES AND ENGLAND c. 1890-1990

THEME 2: Society in transition, c.1890-1990

PART 1 - Chronology chart

This is a suggested timeline for the theme covering society in transition, c.1890-1990. The content coverage is derived from the Specification.

1890s	1900s	1910s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s
The development of education: the Acts of 1889, 1902, 1906, 1918 and 1944									
		Legislation in housing, health and welfare 1918-1939							
					The influence of the Beveridge Report				
					The growth and impact of the Welfare State 1945-1990				
					The changing role and status of women 1945-1990				
						The growth of a consumer society after 1951			
			Popular culture leisure and entertainment 1920-1990						
					Changes in holiday patterns and entertainment 1945-1990				
						Race relations and immigration 1958-1990			

PART 2 - a conceptual guide

This provides a conceptual guide for the theme of society in transition, c.1890-1990 which attempts to demonstrate how each concept underpins the period, how concepts are linked and the significance of these concepts. The aim is not to focus on the content of events but to provide appropriate guidance regarding historical concepts as appropriate.

SOCIAL CHANGE AND REFORM IN WALES AND ENGLAND c. 1890-1990

THEME 2: Society in transition, c.1890-1990

	1890-1945	1945-1990
Cause and Consequence	Educational reform 1889-1944 Legislation in housing, health and welfare 1918-1939	The changing role and status of women 1945-1990 The growth of a consumer society after 1951
Significant individuals	William Beveridge	The Attlee Government 1945-1951 Margaret Thatcher
Turning points	The introduction of the 'Talkies' The Beveridge Report	The popularity of television after 1953 The rise of youth culture from the 1950s
Key Terminology associated with the theme	Depression	Welfare State Permissive Society Immigration and Race Relations
Similarity and Difference <i>Comparison during a sub-period and even over the whole period can feature</i>	How far was British society a more caring society by 1939 ?	Holiday patterns and entertainment 1945-1990 The consumer society and the extent of affluence 1951-1990
Change and Continuity <i>Teachers should address how far and how quickly these issues changed over the whole period</i>	The extent of change in British education, health and welfare over the period The extent of change in British society and culture over the period	

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CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

Educational reform 1889-1944	Centres should examine the reasons why successive governments decided that reform of the education system was necessary, in particular the Acts of 1889, 1902, 1906, 1918 and 1944. The consequences of each Act will be considered and to look at the overall consequences of educational reform, centres should also look at the debate concerning comprehensive schools which developed later during the 1960s
Legislation in housing, health and welfare 1918-1939	Centres should examine the reasons why successive governments decided to legislate in the field of housing, health and welfare 1918-1939. The consequences of this legislation will be considered and to look at the overall consequences of the legislation, centres should also look at the situation after 1945 with the setting up of the NHS and its effect on the health of the nation as well as the creation of the welfare state.
The changing role and status of women 1945-1990	In order to analyse the changing role and status of women after 1945, centres need to look at developments in the early half of the century such as Suffragettes, Suffragists, women during the war, enfranchisement and the social roles of women between the wars. From 1945 onwards centres should examine how the role of women developed with an increased call for equality leading to government legislation in the field of sexual equality and employment equality. These changes affected both single and married women and by 1976 the Equal Opportunites Comission was set up to ensure compliance with these changes..
The growth of a consumer society after 1951	Centres should explain why a 'consumer society' grew after 1951 as people had more spare time and had more disposable income than they had in the past. To consider the consequences of this, centres should assess how the growth of a consumer society affected the lives of the people of Wales and England in this period. As the standard of living increased so did consumer spending power and this led to a boom in such things as home entertainment consumer products, cheap holidays, car ownership and house ownership in the 1950s and 1960s.

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SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

William Beveridge	Centres should be aware of the work of William Beveridge in chairing an inter-departmental committee of civil servants who undertook a survey of national schemes of social insurances in 1942. His report published in 1942 made several recommendations and was widely praised. Centres should be aware of the influence of Beveridge's report on changing British society after 1945.
Individuals within the Attlee Government 1945-1951	The principle of 'universality' advocated by the Beveridge report was actively pursued by the Attlee Government of 1945-1951 who sought to legislate in order to improve social conditions, especially those involving the poorest and most in need. Their programme of reform saw the beginning of the Welfare State in Britain. Centres should assess the work of notable individuals within the Labour government: Attlee himself, Bevin, Bevan and Cripps in particular.
Margaret Thatcher	Centres should assess the impact of the policies of Margaret Thatcher in changing the nature of British society. Her promise to 'change everything' certainly had all the hallmarks of a new way of thinking but to what extent did she succeed in changing Britain from her perceived 'dependent' state to a more individual looking society. Centres should examine areas such as home ownership and the economic policies that resulted in affluence for some and hardship for others.

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TURNING POINTS

The introduction of the Talkies	The introduction of the talkies proved to be a significant turning point in the history of popular entertainment. Centres should explain the impact of the talkies after 1927. Centres should consider the impact of the cinema on life during the depression and the Second World War, especially in terms of entertainment, information and education.
The Beveridge Report	Centres should be aware of the work of William Beveridge in chairing an inter-departmental committee of civil servants who undertook a survey of national schemes of social insurances in 1942. His report published in 1942 made several recommendations and was widely praised. Centres should be aware on the influence of Beveridge's report on changing British society after 1945.
The popularity of television after 1953	The growth in popularity of the television proved to be a significant turning point in the history of popular entertainment. Centres should explain the growth in popularity of the television especially after the Coronation of 1953. Centres should consider the impact of the television on society in particular on family life, music, fashion and other forms of entertainment such as the cinema.
The rise of youth culture from the 1950s	Centres should examine the rise of youth culture from the 1950s. The arrival of rock and roll led to a fear of 'americanisation' of British culture and as it developed so did the idea of 'youth culture' as young people were seen as an important economic market. Centres should examine these developments in particular mods and rockers, the hippy sub-culture and the growth of punk in the 1970s and also consider how many young people actually were part of these 'sub-cultures.'

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THEME 2: Society in transition, c.1890-1990

KEY TERMINOLOGY

Depression	At various stages during 1880-1980, Britain fell into depression and economic downturn leading to unemployment and increase in poverty. Mainly, but not exclusively, connected to the post Wall Street Crash era in Britain between 1931-36, this period of depression led to untold suffering hardship for some in the old staple industries.
Welfare State	The Welfare State should be discussed in the context of its effect on British society after 1945. The Attlee government was eager to change British society and provide universal care for everyone. Centres should attempt to judge whether they did succeed in creating a fairer society and how far the original ideas behind the Welfare state have stayed the same.
Permissive Society	Centres should look at the changes brought about in British society by the advent of popular culture and entertainment. In particular they should understand that a permissive society is a society in which social norms become increasingly liberal, especially with regards to sexual freedom and was a term frequently applied to British society in the 1960s. Censorship of sexual material was a concern of many in society in the 1950s as seen by the prosecution of Penguin books in 1960. Many British people became worried about the influence of rock and roll music and feared that sexual restraint was no longer practiced in clothing styles as well as in personal behaviour. Centres should look at the change in attitudes which were seen as an expression of a new generation which also seemed to lead to a more liberal attitude to drug-taking
Immigration and Race Relations	Centres should be aware of the reason for increasing immigration to Britain in the years following the Second World War. The London race riots of 1958 sparked a period of concern as tensions between black and white communities erupted especially in the poorer areas of Britain's cities where existing shortages of affordable housing were made worse by the perceived increased competition caused by new arrivals. Centres should examine the government legislation which followed in 1965, 1968 and 1976 and examine their effects on immigration and race relations.

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SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE

How far was British society a more caring society by 1939?	Centres should consider the range of changes in British society between 1890-1939 in many fields including education, health, housing and welfare. Centres should consider similarities and differences in the lives of the British people in these areas and assess how far lives had changed by 1939.
Holiday patterns and entertainment 1945-1990	Centres should consider changes in holiday patterns and entertainment between 1945 and 1990. Centres should consider issues such as paid holidays and increased leisure time together with the impact of foreign package holidays by the 1970s. Centres should also consider changes in entertainment especially in regard to television and popular music. Centres should consider similarities and differences in the leisure and entertainment choices of British people and assess how far these had changed by 1990.
The consumer society and the extent of affluence 1951-1990	Centres should assess how the growth of a consumer society affected the lives of the people of Wales and England in this period. As the standard of living increased so did consumer spending power and this led to a boom affluence for many in the 1960s in relation to consumer products, home entertainment, annual holidays, car ownership and house ownership. Centres should assess what further developments happened under the Thatcher governments, namely council house buying schemes and the promotion of competition. Centres should consider similarities and differences in the consumerism of British people and assess how far these had changed by 1990.

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THEME 2: Society in transition, c.1890-1990

CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

The extent of change in British education, health and welfare 1890-1990	<p>In order to consider issues of change and continuity in British society across the whole period, centres should examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reform of the education system between 1889-1944 and also the debate concerning comprehensive schools which developed during the 1960s• the work of the Liberal government of 1906-1914 in introducing social reforms• the need to legislate in the fields of housing, health and welfare 1918-1939• the setting up of the NHS and its effect on the health of the nation• the development of the welfare state post 1945• how education, health and welfare legislation developed in the 1960s and 1970s
The extent of change in popular culture, leisure and entertainment 1920-1990	<p>In order to consider issues of change and continuity across the whole period, centres should examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• leisure and entertainment patterns during the depression years of the 1930s, particularly cinema and radio• the impact of the Second World War in popular culture• the impact of television and popular music as entertainment in the 1950s and 1960s• increased leisure time and changes in holiday patterns from the 1960s• the extent and pace of change for British families
How different was life in Britain by 1990 compared to 1890?	<p>Between 1890-1990 changes in British society had seen developments in many fields: education, health, housing and welfare, popular culture and entertainment, immigration and race relations, the role of women and the rise of a consumer society. Centres should assess to what extent had British society changed between 1890 and 1990 especially in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• age groups• geographical area• per decade• pace and rate

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Part 3 Resources

Books

Author	Title	Publisher	ISBN
Derrick Murphy	Britain 1914-2000	Flagship History	0-00-327131-5
M Pugh	State and Society: British Political and Social History 1870-1992	Routledge	0340507101
Christopher Rowe	Britain 1929-1998	Routledge	0-435-32738-0
A Marwick	Culture in Britain since 1945	Blackwell	0631171916
P Clarke	Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-1980	Penguin	0140148302
Ian Cawood	Britain in the Twentieth Century	Routledge	9780415254571

Audio - Visual resources

The Making of Modern Britain by Andrew Marr (2010) various episodes 1-6 BBC
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUc2eLe-rul>: Documentary about the 1960s

Internet sites

Welfare State	http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/field_01.shtml
General overview of 1950s	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqVwc6nrHjI
Liberal reforms 1906-14	http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/britain/liberalreformsrev1.shtml
The welfare State	http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/brave_new_world/welfare.htm
Social Reform	http://www.history.org.uk/resources/secondary_resource_4701,4710_124.html