

Option 3B War and the transformation of British society c1931–51

All key topics must be taught

Key Topic 1 The impact of the Depression 1931–39

- The growth of unemployment and the government response.
- The experience of the unemployed.
- Case study: the Jarrow Crusade.

Amplification of content

The nature and extent of unemployment, regional variations, public spending cuts, 1931, the 'Dole' and the Means Test, Special Areas Act (1934), the Unemployment Insurance Act (1936). The experience of the unemployed includes the impact on living standards especially in the depressed areas, the Means Test in practice and attempts to influence public opinion. The Jarrow Crusade involves the impact of the depression on Jarrow, especially shipbuilding, reasons for the march, opposition from the Labour Party and NUWM, the marchers and their impact on public opinion, the government response and the importance of the Crusade.

Key Topic 2 Britain alone

- The BEF, Dunkirk and Churchill.
- The Battle of Britain.
- The Blitz.

Amplification of content

The German invasion of the Low Countries and France, the retreat of the BEF, the importance of Dunkirk and the reasons for British survival, especially the role of Churchill. The Battle of Britain involves the reasons for the battle, key events, its importance and reasons for British victory. The evacuation, the effects of the Blitz on British towns and cities 1940–41, the effects of the second Blitz by the V1 and V2 bombs 1944–45, the blackout, air raid shelters and the work of the Home Guard.

Key Topic 3 Britain at war

- The role of government, food supplies and rationing.
- The changing role of women.
- D-Day and the defeat of Germany.

Amplification of content

Censorship and propaganda, the impact of the war on food supplies in Britain and government measures to deal with these problems. The contribution made by women on the home front, especially in employment, including heavy industry, transport and the armed forces and its effects 1945–51. D-Day involves the preparation and organisation for the invasion, the events of D-Day and reasons for its success. The defeat of Germany relates to the Allied drive to victory, 1944–45, including Arnhem and the Battle of the Bulge and reasons for Germany's defeat.

Key Topic 4 Labour in power, 1945–51

- Labour comes to power.
- Responding to Beveridge: the attack on 'want'.
- The NHS.

Amplification of content

Labour comes to power involves the reasons for the Labour Election victory of 1945. The second bullet point includes the recommendations of the Beveridge Report, including the 'Five Giants', and its importance. 'Want' includes the introduction of family allowances, the 1946 National Insurance Act, 1948 National Assistance Act and their effects on people's lives. The NHS involves the National Health Act of 1946, opposition from the medical profession, the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948 and its impact in the years 1948–51.