

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 Act (1934).

The experience of the unemployed, including the impact on living standards especially in the depressed areas, the Means Test in practice and attempts to influence public opinion.

The impact of the Depression on Jarrow, especially shipbuilding, reasons for the march, opposition from the Labour Party and the National Unemployed Workers' Movement, the marchers and their impact on public opinion, the government response and the importance of the Jarrow Crusade.

Key Topic 2 Britain at war 1939–45

- The BEF, Dunkirk and Churchill.
- The Battle of Britain.
- D-Day and the defeat of Germany.

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 reasons for the Battle of Britain, key events, its importance and reasons for British victory.

The preparation and organisation for the invasion, the events of D-Day and reasons for its success; the Allied drive to victory, 1944–45, including Arnhem and the Battle of the Bulge and reasons for Germany's defeat.

Key Topic 3 The home front 1939–45

- The Blitz.
- The role of government, food supplies and rationing.
- The changing role of women.

Amplification of content

The reasons why the Germans launched the Blitz. 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.

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 on the role and status of women.

Key Topic 4 Labour in power 1945–51

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

Amplification of content

The reasons for the Labour election victory of 1945, including party politics, the election campaign and the legacy of wartime attitudes.

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 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.