



Dear Student,

We are delighted that you have taken an interest in studying A-Level History at the Deanery Sixth Form College. We are proud to have a consistent 100% pass rate, an increasing number of students achieving higher grades and, as a college, the highest "value added" for students completing academic subjects (such as History) of any college in the Wigan area.

We are proud of the support we offer our students, and although we are experiencing challenges in education across the country at the moment, we want to make sure your transition into A-Level is as seamless as possible. Therefore, in order to prepare yourself, we strongly recommend you complete the bridging unit tasks set on the Deanery Sixth Form College web page - <https://www.deanery.wigan.sch.uk/studenthub/>.

During Year 12, you will study two historical topics – Democracy & Dictatorship in Germany, 1919-1963 and Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, 1035-1107. Below are some additional activities to boost your understanding and make transition from GCSE to A-Level as smooth as possible.

## **Democracy & Dictatorship in Germany, 1919-1963**

### **Activities to support your understanding of German History:**

- Although you won't be sitting formal GCSE examinations this summer, it is essential you understand the key content from GCSE. Therefore, an adapted workbook that contains activities and key knowledge quizzes on the following topics must be completed to understand Germany in the years 1919-1939:
  - Beginnings of the Weimar Republic, 1919-1923.
    - A "Golden Twenties"? 1923-1929.
    - The Rise of the Nazis, 1923-1933.
  - Creating a Nazi Dictatorship, 1933-1934.
    - Nazi Control of Germany, 1933-1939.
    - Life inside Nazi Germany, 1933-1939.
- Equally important is understanding the two different German states that were created after World War Two – Communist East Germany (supported by the USSR) and Capitalist West Germany (supported by the USA). Germany was at the centre of the Cold War, therefore you must complete the activities and key knowledge quizzes in the adapted work book on Germany during the Cold War Era, 1941-1963. Topics relating to Germany include:
  - The Conferences at Teheran, Yalta & Potsdam.
    - The Truman Doctrine & Marshall Aid.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Berlin Crisis – Blockade & Airlift, NATO v Warsaw Pact.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Berlin Crisis – Refugees, Summits & Ultimatums, the U2 Spy Plane, The Building of the Wall, Checkpoint Charlie.

## German History on Film:

- When studying modern history, we are lucky that there are huge amount of films and series available to support our passion for the subject. Two excellent series/films to help understand the *rise of Hitler* in Germany are "**Hitler: The Rise of Evil**", starring Robert Carlyle (available in a number of versions on YouTube) and "**Hitler's Circle of Evil**" (available on Netflix).
- Whilst you will be familiar with the rise of Hitler from your GCSE studies, an aspect of our Year 12 studies that will be less familiar is the *Holocaust*. A fantastic BBC mini-series, "**Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution**", is available on Netflix and other platforms. This is essential viewing. Whilst we must be cautious as historians when watching Hollywood films, multi-Oscar winning films "**Schindler's List**" and "**The Pianist**" (also available on Netflix) are excellent support materials in the study of the Holocaust.
- Often overlooked is the *end of World War Two* and the impact this had on Germany. "**Downfall**" is a stunning film showing the final days of Nazism in April 1945 from Hitler's bunker in Berlin. To begin to understand a *divided Germany* (a key consequence of World War Two and specifically the Berlin Blockade of 1948/49), Tom Hanks stars in "**Bridge of Spies**" and shows the fallout of the USSR shooting down the USA's U2 spy plane. A breath-taking series called "**Deutschland 83**" is available for free on All 4 and highlights the differing cultures of East and West Germany. Finally, if you can source "**The Lives of Others**" you will be more able to understand the role of the Stasi (secret police) in East Germany.
- Finally, to fully grasp the modern History of Berlin, capital of Germany and the most fascinating city in the world, you should watch "**Matt Frei: Berlin**" for free on YouTube.

## Anglo-Saxon England & the Norman Conquest, 1035-1107

### Activities to support your understanding of Anglo-Saxon and Norman History:

- Although you studied the Anglo-Saxon and Normans during the Crime and Punishment module for GCSE, for many of you, you haven't studied Medieval History in detail since Year 7. A background knowledge activity sheet has been created as you need an understanding of Anglo-Saxon society and the Norman Conquest up to 1087:
  - Aethelred, Sweyn and Cnut – up to 1035
    - Edward the Confessor 1042-1066
      - Crisis in 1066
    - Reign of William I 1066-1087
- The enquiry topic for this module is Norman England (1087-1100). Many of you will have studied the reign of William I or 'William the Conqueror', however you will also need an understanding of the crisis that followed after William I's death including:
  - Inheritance crisis of 1087
- Religion and the Church in Norman England
  - Suspicious death of William 'Rufus' 1100
  - Succession of Henry I 1100

### Medieval History in the media:

- '**BBC teach**' on YouTube contains a mini-series on this topic including: **the succession crisis of 1066, the battles of 1066, how William I was able to control England**. Whilst these videos are aimed at GCSE students, they directly link with the content on this module and are very easy to follow.
- '**History Extra**' podcasts available on Spotify have a number of podcasts available on the Norman Conquest

- **Marc Morris – The Norman Conquest** – excellent reading on this period of History by Morris who is a well-known Historian for this period of History. He has also recorded a podcast for History Extra on the Conquest
- **'The Normans'** a three-part mini-series made by the BBC is available on YouTube that covers the Norman Conquest including the Domesday Book and the inheritance crisis after William I's death between his sons.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Smith', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr M Smith  
Curriculum Leader for History

