**Year 10 Revision Guide: End of Year Exam**

**Section A: America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality**

**Part one-American people and the ‘boom’**

Republican policies

* *Laissez faire:* non-interference by the government.
* *Tariffs:* Taxes on goods imported to America, making them expensive.
* *Low taxation:* Lower taxes 🡪 more money to spend 🡪 industrial growth.

Reasons for the ‘boom’

* Mass production made products cheaper, so more people could buy them, leading to the cycle of prosperity-American attitudes changed from saving to spending.
* Advertising encouraged Americans to spend and Americans could now borrow money or use hire purchase to ‘buy now, pay later’
* People bought shares, the stock market boomed, so companies had more money to spend.

Ford and the motor industry

* Henry Ford revolutionised car manufacturing using mass production; each worker had one or two small tasks that they became experts in.
* In 1929 4.8 million cars were produced, one every 10 seconds. This kept employment high in the car industry but also in other industries like glass, rubber and petrol.
* 1 in 5 Americans had a car, compared to 1 in 43 British owners, meaning they could visit and buy a house in the suburbs, boosting house production and other small businesses.

Inequalities of Wealth

* Farmers: overproduction led to an income drop from $22bn in 1919 to $13bn in 1928.
* Old industry workers: coal was replaced by oil and electricity and leather and textiles couldn’t compete with man-made materials and cheap Southern labour.
* Unemployed/poor: Jobs had doubled but 5% of people were still unemployed from 1920-29, including Whites and immigrant communities, meaning consumer demand would drop.

Entertainment industries

* Travel: cars helped cities grow as people moved further out, also letting owners travel on holiday and to the cinema where 100mn tickets were sold each week.
* Sport: baseball and boxing were popular with legendary teams and prominent figures.
* Radio & Jazz: nearly everyone had a radio with programmes growing from 1 to 508 between 1921-29 and broadcasting jazz to younger listeners.

Life for women

* Clothes: ‘flappers’ wore short dresses, make-up and smoked in public, a big change from before WWI and leading to a change in attitudes.
* Jobs: during the war women started working, this carried on into the new industrial era. In 1929 there were 10 million women in jobs, 24% more than 1920.
* Lack of equality: rural women were kept in more traditional roles and all women were paid less than men and were certainly not given access to political power.

Causes of prohibition

* Strong ‘temperance’ movements in rural American meant by 1916 21 states had banned saloons. Non-drinkers became known as ‘dries’.
* ‘Dries’ claimed 3,000 infants were smothered each year from drunken parents and that drink was evil, linking to unpatriotic behaviour in WWI and Bolshevism.
* In 1917 the 18th Amendment was passed prohibiting the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors leading to a drop in alcohol consumption of 30%.

Effects of prohibition

* Enforcement was underfunded and understaffed and Americans in urban areas weren’t prepared to obey prohibition, so illegal speakeasies and moonshine became popular.
* Police officers were often involved with the liquor trade leading to corruption-1 in 12 prohibition agents were fired for corruption.
* Gangsters operated all over the USA, significantly Al Capone who saw prohibition as a business and was a popular man, until the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.
* The St. Valentine’s Day Massacre showed people prohibition had failed, making the USA lawless, thepolice corrupt and the gangsters rich. Prohibition was repealed in 1933 under Roosevelt.

Racial Tension

* African Americans faced discrimination and many moved North in the 1920s, however, they still lived in great poverty and often lived in isolated ghettos.
* President Wilson showed *The Birth of a Nation* in the White House, glorifying the KKK as defenders of ‘decent’ American values against African Americans.
* With this publicity, the Ku Klux Klan grew into a powerful political force with 5 million members by 1925. Between 1919-25 over 300 African American’s were lynched.

The impact of immigration

* Immigration was at an all-time high between 1901-10, with the USA priding itself on being a cultural ‘melting pot.’
* The Red Scare: America feared communism after the Russian Revolution, particularly after economic riots in America which people believed were caused by communist immigrants.
* Sacco and Vanzetti: Radical political believers were rounded up, most famously Sacco and Vanzetti, and accused of murder. The case was flimsy and their execution was met with protest.
* The US government introduced literacy tests for immigrants, and subsequently quotas, limiting immigrants to 150,000 per year.

**Part two: Bust-Americans’ experiences of the Depression and New Deal**

Effects of the Depression

* The Wall Street Crash: speculation and less demand for goods meant shares were sold causing them to plummet in value, leading to nationwide bankruptcy.
* Unemployment: Less demand meant businesses fired workers. Between 1928-33 industrial and farm production fell by 40% and average wages by 60%.
* Farmers: Agriculture was hit hardest by the crash as they had already suffered during the 1920s. They couldn’t pay bills and threatened police.
* Businessmen: Between 1928-33 – 10,000 banks closed and 100,000 businesses went bankrupt. Industrial production fell by 40% and for many, suicide seemed the only option.

Hoover’s responses and unpopularity

* Until 1932, Hoover didn’t accept the problem, insisting ‘prosperity is just around the corner.’ He became known as a ‘do nothing’ president.
* He tried to cut spending through tax and wages, but this only worsened the situation. Hoover really believed businesses should be left alone to bring back prosperity
* He also believed social security wasn’t the government’s responsibility, famously resulting in MacArthur gassing a peaceful military protest by the Bonus Marchers and killing two babies.

Roosevelt’s election as president

* Roosevelt was a democrat, believing in ‘active government’, increased spending and asking for help.
* Roosevelt toured the USA by train, making 16 speeches and another 60 from his train, promising the American people a ‘New Deal’ and winning by 7 million votes.

The ‘New Deal’

* The ‘New Deal’ aims were: relief, recovery, reform.
* First 100 days: tackling the banking crisis, Roosevelt shut all banks, allowing only 5,000 trustworthy banks to re-open.
* Alphabet Agencies
  + **Federal Emergency Relief Administration**: to meet urgent needs of the poor.
  + **Civilian Conservation Corps**: helping unemployed young men for 6 months
  + **Agricultural Adjustment Administration**: helping farmers financially
  + **Public Works Administration**: used government money to build social facilities
  + **National Recovery Administration:** improved working conditions with fair wages
  + **Home Owners Loan Corporation**: took over mortgages at low interest rates.
  + **Tennessee Valley Authority**: transformed the area for farming and development.

The Second ‘New Deal’

* By May 1935 Roosevelt was facing criticism for doing too much or too little, so he took action
* New Acts:
  + **The Wagner Act**: forced employees to allow trade unions to operate
  + **The Social Security Act**: providing pensions and benefits
  + **The Works Progress Administration**: combined organisations aiming to create jobs
  + **The Resettlement Administration**: moved families to better quality housing
  + **The Farm Security Administration**: gave loans to farmers.

Opposition to the New Deal

* The Supreme Court can overturn laws they think are unconstitutional. During the ‘New Deal’ the Supreme Court was mainly made up of Republicans who felt the government were doing too much.
* Republicans saw Roosevelt as a dictator, wanting to return to 1920s policies.
* Radical politicians and democrats claimed Roosevelt wasn’t doing enough, like Senator Huey Long who was assassinated in 1935 for his radical views.

1930s America

* Car ownership, radio and sport led to broader horizons than previous generations.
* The biggest influence was cinema, with ‘talkies’ being introduced in the 1930s to reflect the depression. All the while films were becoming more expansive.

Successes of the ‘New Deal’

* Industry and employment: the ‘New Deal’ created millions of jobs, stabilised the banking system and allowed workers to become part of unions.
* Race and gender relations: African Americans and Native Americans were helped financially and socially. Women also became more prominent in the workforce.
* The economy: Jobs were created, so people had more money to spend, which boosted the economy.

Impact of WWII

* Lend Lease: Lending war materials to Allied nations stimulating the economy
* Wartime Production: there was a will by Americans to help produce wartime goods, meaning that 14 million Americans worked in factories, including women.
* Economic Recovery: new businesses were set up during the war, ending unemployment and causing farmers to prosper for the first time. Wages increased as did demand and spending.

Social impact of WWII

* African Americans in the army: over 1mn African-American soldiers joined the army alongside white soldiers, although many were only given menial tasks.
* African Americans at home: about 2mn African Americans worked to produce war materials, migrating to the North and realising segregation was not normal outside their communities.
* Women: many women entered the workforce, 60% of managers claimed women were their best workers. Nearly 200,000 joined the Women’s Army Corps during WWII.

**Part three: Post-war America**

American society after 1945

* Consumerism: in the 1950s the USA was producing half the world’s goods and GNP doubled as the USA had suffered no mainland bombing.
* The American Dream: many Americans moved to the suburbs, bought luxury goods and increased spending through ‘hire purchase,’ meaning living on credit became normal.

Popular culture after 1945

* Teenagers: in the 1940/50s, youths had more free time and money than ever and created a new style and culture and became known as ‘teenagers’ who were associated with rebellion.
* Rock and roll: teenage discontent presented in music, Elvis Presley became a household name, shocking parents and wowing fans.
* Television: TV ownership jumped from 0.4% to 83.2% between 1948-58. It was dominated by commercials encouraging spending, soap operas and programmes for children.

McCarthyism

* After WWII American fears of communism were heightened as Russia controlled more of Eastern Europe. In 1949 China also became communist, scaring the USA even more.
* Americans began to suspect anyone not showing American values. Congress set up the House Committee of Un-American activities to investigate such people.
* McCarthy started a campaign, trailing people without any real evidence, even accusing army officers. Hearings were televised and people saw him as the bully he was.

Segregation and Education

* Discrimination was high with ‘Jim Crow’ laws, prevention from voting, racist police and a lack of equal opportunities within work and education.
* Brown v Board of Education of Topeka: The Supreme Court stated that segregated education couldn’t be considered constitutional and that segregated schools were unequal.
* Little Rock Arkansas: 9 black students attempted to enter Little Rock high school after de-segregation, but were refused entry. Eisenhower sent troops to protect the students.

Martin Luther King and Peaceful protests

* Montgomery Bus Boycott: Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man, sparking the boycott, causing bus companies to lose 65% of their income.
* Sit-ins: Black students sat on ‘Whites only seats’ at lunch counters. By the end of 1960 lunch counters had been desegregated in 126 cities.
* Freedom rides: many states didn’t obey desegregated bus laws. Freedom riders rode on buses to highlight this, facing some of the worst violence in the campaign.
* The March on Washington: MLK spoke to over 200,000 black people and 50,000 white people who marched together.

Malcolm X and Violent Protests

* Malcolm X believed in violent protests to gain black civil rights, following groups like the Nation of Islam. The Black Panthers even had a small private army.
* Race riots: Northern and Western cities faced riots due to poor relations between police and African Americans.
* Impact of Black power: many blamed black power groups for worsening African Americans’ situation but they did manage to get their voices heard.

Civil Rights Acts

* Selma: a voting rights march to allow African Americans to vote, which was banned but went ahead anyway. Marchers were brutally attacked and the media called it ‘bloody Sunday’
* Voting Rights Act 1965: an act allowing government agents to inspect voting procedures to make sure they were taking place properly and also banned literacy tests.
* Civil Rights Act 1968: Housing could not be sold or rented on the basis of discrimination.
* Assassination of MLK: probably assassinated by a hired killer.

Social Policies

* After 8 years of Republican government under Eisenhower, Kennedy was elected as a Democrat in 1961, being replaced by Johnson after his assassination.
* Johnson carried out the policies Kennedy started: tackling poverty, unemployment, bad housing and inadequate medical care.
* There was still criticism of the reforms: Republicans thought they violated freedoms; many African Americans still lived in poverty and much was lost in Vietnam’s negative publicity

Development and impact of feminist movements

* After WWII, women’s attitudes and expectations changed. By the 1960s, with the Civil Rights campaign and publishing of the Feminine Mystique, they wanted more.
* In 1966 the National Organisation for Women (NOW) was created. They fought for equal pay. Act passed in 1963, but women’s average pay was still only 70% of men’s.
* Roe v. Wade 1973 was the Supreme Court ruling abortion as a fundamental constitutional right, overturning individual state laws. In 1972 they also ruled on legalising contraception.
* Some opposed the Equal Rights Amendment, many women were happy with their place in society but religious groups also disagreed with many changes.

**Section B: Conflict and tension, 1894–1918**

**Part one: The causes of the First World War**

**The Alliance System**

* By 1914 the six most powerful countries in Europe were divided into two opposing alliances: 1882 – Triple Alliance (also known as the Central Powers) and 1907 – Triple Entente
* Often seen as a major cause of the First World War because of the build-up of tension between the ‘Great Powers’ – as relations between rival countries increased, their allies would often support them, and so tension would increase

**The Triple Alliance (1882)**

* Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. Under this alliance the countries agreed to help each other if they were attacked by another country This alliance was signed in secret, and was only meant to be defensive (not to provoke other countries into war, or invade other countries), but the secrecy caused other countries to be suspicious

**Entente Cordiale, 1904**

* As a result of the Triple Alliance, and Germany’s rapidly increasing army and navy, France and Great Britain signed an alliance in 1904, promising to protect and support each other if attacked by the Triple Alliance. The German Kaiser was amazed at this alliance, as Britain and France were two countries who traditionally did not have a good relationship

**First Moroccan Crisis 1905**

* France wanted to annex Morocco (a rich source of income as a result of its position on the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean)Kaiser Wilhelm saw this as an opportunity to test this ‘new friendship’ between Britain and France.
* (1905) the Kaiser promised the native people of Morocco help against the French. The French were furious – how dare the Kaiser get involved in something that was none of his business! The Kaiser wanted to see if Britain would actually support France in this crisis. France contacted Britain, and Britain, true to their word, came to support France.
* In 1906, Britain and France (and Russia – now getting more and more concerned with the actions of Germany) met at the Algeciras Conference, and decided to force Germany to have nothing to do with Morocco. Germany had to reluctantly agree (as Germany was not yet strong enough to fight against the three countries)
* This event proved that the Entente Cordiale was strong and ‘real’,and it also isolated the Kaiser, humiliating him too.

**Balkans Crisis (1908-1909)**

* The Slavic and Balkan state of Bosnia was annexed by Austria-Hungary in 1908. This was part of Austria-Hungary’s imperialistic ambitions, but it greatly angered other Balkan countries. Serbia was especially angry; Serbia had hoped to unite Bosnia and Serbia in one nation-state, but now this seemed impossible.
* But, more importantly, Serbia worried that Austria-Hungary might try to annex Serbia next – and this was terrifying . Serbia needed to do something to prevent this – but was too small and too weak to do anything on its own so Serbia asked Russia for support.
* Russia was initially happy to support Serbia (Russian and Serbian people are both Slavic – same ethnic group)
* But, the main reason Russia wanted to help Serbia was to prevent Austria-Hungary growing in size, and also to prevent Austria-Hungary having any more influence in the Balkans – as this would prevent Russia from using ports in the Balkans (for the Mediterranean Sea)
* However, in 1909 Russia had to break the bad news to Serbia, that they would not help Serbia out against Austria-Hungary – this was because Germany had made it very clear that, if Russia in any way threatened Austria-Hungary, then Germany would attack Russia – Russia was threatened by this.

**This crisis was very important:**

* It made Austria-Hungary confident that it could rely on German support.
* Russia, although humiliated, decided that it would build-up its arms so this never happened to them again.
* Serbia had to accept Bosnia was part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, but small terrorist groups started to form in Serbia, determined to take revenge on Austria-Hungary.

**Second Moroccan Crisis 1911**

* In 1911 the Moroccan people rebelled against their leader(The Sultan)The Sultan asked for French help to stop it – France did and demanded to have complete control over Morocco.
* By now, Germany had increased the size of its navy and army, and felt like they could challenge French action in Morocco. Germany sent one of its Dreadnoughts (‘The Panther’) to Morocco, and anchored it off the coast of the Moroccan port of Agadir.
* Germany demanded that France give some of Morocco to Germany, or be fired at by the battleship.
* The German Kaiser was, once again, testing the friendship between the France and Britain – and was convinced that Britain would not come to France’s assistance again.
* Britain was initially reluctant to help out again, but considered what would happen if France was defeated by Germany – Germany could try this trick towards British colonies, and the French would probably not help out the British. The British therefore helped out France and forced Germany to back down
* The British and French then went one step further and signed another agreement – THE ANGLO-FRENCH NAVAL AGREEMENT 1911 – whereby they promised to patrol the sea surrounding Germany, and prevent any more German battleships leaving German ports
* The Agadir crisis was a clear victory for France and Britain, and the Kaiser was once again humiliated – and became determined that this would not happen to him again!

**Kaiser Wilhelm’s foreign policy**

* By 1900, Germany was under the control of Kaiser (King) Wilhelm II. Wilhelm was very IMPERIALISTIC and was determined to establish an Empire that could rival Britain and France’s Empires.
* The Kaiser wanted Germany to ‘have its place in the sun.’
* This naturally worried France and Britain, who thought that the Kaiser might try to take-over some of their colonies.
* From 1900 Germany was also building-up its army and navy – this was enough proof for France and Britain to assume that the Kaiser was getting ready to take-over French and British colonies.

**European rearmament**

* Germany also managed to threaten and upset France by increasing the size of its army. The existence of a large, and increasing, Germany army made the French paranoid that Germany might try to invade. Germany had done this recently (1871) and, after defeating the French, had annexed part of France (Alsace-Lorraine) Russia was worried for exactly the same reasons. As a result of this, France and Russia started to increase the size of their armies, and Germany, in retaliation, continued to increase its army.
* All three countries introduced conscription (compulsory military service for citizens), meaning that countries would have more trained men in the event of war.
* By 1913, Russia had the largest army, but its men were not well-trained, nor did they have decent weapons. Although smaller in size than the Russian army, the Germany army was highly-trained, well-equipped and stronger.
* Britain did not get involved in the ‘arms race’ as it was concentrating on increasing its navy.

**Anglo-German naval race**

* One of the most significant causes of tension in Europe was the naval rivalry between Britain and Germany.
* Britain traditionally had the strongest navy, and felt justified in having this as a result of its vast empire. However, by 1898, Germany began to challenge this as the Kaiser announced Germany was going to increase the size of it navy.
* Britain was very threatened by this – Germany did not have an empire, so why did it need a large navy? What would Germany do with these new battle ships? Britain started to become paranoid that Germany would use its new navy as a means of taking over Britain’s empire, and maybe even to attack Britain.
* Britain was not convinced by the Kaiser’s words, and started to increase the size of its navy. The British and Germans were building a particular type of battleship (THE DREADNOUGHT) – fast, well-equipped and manoeuvrable. By 1909 the ‘naval race’ had reached its height.
* The British public put a lot of pressure on the British government to build more and more of the Dreadnought battleships, chanting the slogan ‘we want eight, and we won’t wait!’
* Overall, the German navy never surpassed the size of the British navy: By 1914 Britain has 29 new Dreadnought and Germany has 17 new Dreadnoughts.
* But, what these events did was worse – it further increased tension between Britain and Germany – Britain felt threatened and would not trust the German Kaiser.

**Relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary**

* The Balkan League countries started to argue with each other over who owned what territory in the Balkans – the arguments led to conflict and war.
* Also, as a result of the political vacuum created by the decline of the Ottoman Empire, Balkan countries began to fight each other to assert their independence and power.
* Serbia emerged the winner of the Balkan Wars – this greatly boosted its confidence. Serbia emerged from these wars as the strongest and most powerful Balkan state
* This worried Austria-Hungary, as Serbia had made it clear that it did not like Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary were desperate to find an opportunity to ‘deal with’ Serbia and prevent it from growing any more in power of confidence

**Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand**

* On 28th June, 1914, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whilst visiting the capital city of Bosnia, was shot dead by a Serbian terrorist, **Gavrilo Princip.**
* The terrorist belonged to the terrorist group ‘The Black Hand’ – who had organised the assassination to publicise their opposition to the Austrian-Hungarian annexation of Bosnia.
* The Archduke had two attempts made on his life – the first was when another member of the Black Hand, Cabrinovic, threw a bomb at the Archduke’s convoy of cars, but missed.
* The Archduke, although shaken-up by the experience, continued his visit and after visiting those injured in the bomb blast, instructed his driver to take him (and his wife Sophia) back to the train station. However, the driver took a wrong turn, and whilst trying to leave Franz Joseph Street, Gavrilo Princip, who happened to be in the right place at the right time, fired shots at the Archduke and his wife and killed them both.

**Consequences of the assassination-the July Crisis**

* Austria-Hungary saw the assassination as a perfect excuse to attack Serbia
* Austria-Hungary were confident that, if they invaded Serbia, and if Russia decided to assist Serbia, they would be supported by Germany– Germany offered Austria-Hungary a ‘**blank cheque**’ (anything Austria-Hungary wanted – money, arms, military advice) if they attacked Serbia.
* Austria-Hungary offered Serbia 10 point ultimatum – if Serbia refused to accept any of them Serbia would be invaded by Austria-Hungary.
* Serbia accepted all but one of the 10 points – this refusal meant that, exactly one month after the assassination, on the **28th July 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia-**the first step towards WW1.
* After the Bosnian Crisis, 1908, Russia felt it had badly let down its Serbian allies, and was determined not to back down again – **30th July Russia prepares for war against Germany and Austria-Hungary.**
* **Germany declares war on Russia – 1st August, 1914.**
* Russia’s ally France, being in an alliance with Russia, become involved as **Germany declared war on France on 3rd August** (the Germans did this as they wanted to ‘knock France out of the war quickly’ so they were not fighting a war on two fronts (against Russia and France)
* Britain, although obliged to help out Russia and France, were reluctant to join in the war – and only said they would if Germany attacked the north coast of France (think about how close this is to the British mainland)
* 3rd August, 1914 – Germany attacks the northern part of France and Belgium – this was done through the German War Plan, known as the **Schlieffen Plan.**
* Britain had signed the Treaty of London, and promised to support and protect Belgium if ever invaded – they were now being invaded!
* This provoked Britain, and Britain declared war on Germany on the same day

**Part two: The First World War: Stalemate**

Schlieffen Plan-reasons for the plan and its failure

* Idea was to send German forces through Belgium and quickly knock France out of the war, so that the German army could move to Russia.
* The Treaty of London meant that Britain were obliged to protect Belgium.
* Belgian resistance bought time for British and French troops to mobilise.
* British were hugely outnumbered but did slow the Germans down and ruined their plan.

Battle of Marne and its contribution to the stalemate

* Germans were struggling to keep their troops supplied with troops and equipment so decided to advance straight towards Paris.
* Combined British and French forces stopped the German advance along the line of the River Marne and pushed them back to the River Aisne.
* Neither side could make any further progress, so both sides began digging trenches to protect themselves-the stalemate had begun and would last until 1918.

Trench warfare

* Trenches offered the best protection from snipers, shellfire, mines and other dangers for the soldiers.
* The infantry would go ‘over the top’, with the hope that the enemy would be worn down.
* In the summer, the trenches were hot, dusty and smelly. In wet weather, soldiers spent much time up to their ankles or knees in water, leading to ‘trench foot.’ Trenches were also infested by rats.
* Soldiers only spent 60% of their time in a trench and were able to go sightseeing in France. Soldiers were relatively well fed and received letters from home, which kept morale high.

Military tactics and technology

* Artillery-job was to destroy enemy positions and defences so that the enemy could be captured. At the beginning of the war, artillery guns were not very accurate-by the end of the war, artillery was much more powerful and accurate.
* Machine guns-very heavy at the start of the war, but good as a defensive weapon-a machine gun could fire 8 bullets per second. Many British were killed at the Battle of the Somme by machine gun fire.
* Poison gas-After April 1915, gas attacks from both sides became a regular feature of war. Aim of a gas attack was to disable enemy troops so that the following infantry charge would be successful. Gas masks became more developed, meaning only 3000 British troops died from gas attacks in the whole war.
* Tanks-Invented by the British and used for first time at the Somme. First machines only moved at walking pace and were very unreliable-more than half broke down before they got to the German trenches. Tanks were successful in November 1917 at Cambrai and were a significant boost to British morale.
* Aircraft-In 1914, aircraft were very unreliable and dangerous-losses were very high. They were mainly used for reconnaissance and taking pictures. In April 1915, planes were successfully fitted with machine guns. By 1918, spectacular aerial battles were common over the Western Front. In four years, the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Flying Corps had gone from having 37 aeroplanes to 23,000.

Battle of Verdun: Events and significance

* In February 1916, Germans tried to capture strategic French forts around Verdun. Following the tactics of attrition, they wanted to ‘bleed France white.’
* The tactic failed, as both sides suffered roughly equal losses. By July, some 700,000 men had fallen. By this point, the Germans had greater resources and the French army was near breaking point.

Battle of the Somme: Events and significance

* To relieve pressure on the French at Verdun, Douglas Haig launched an offensive at the Somme.
* After a weeklong artillery bombardment of German trenches, British troops advanced. On the first day, there were 57,000 British casualties. The fighting continued until November 1916 with around 420,000 British, 200,000 French and 500,000 German casualties.
* Politicians and the British public were horrified at the losses and the battle is one of the most controversial of WW1 BUT the battle did save Verdun. Some of Germany’s best troops were killed and injured in this battle.

Passchendaele: Events and significance

* Started in July 1917-also known as the Third Battle of Ypres.
* British detonated huge mines at Messines, which destroyed German artillery positions and killed 10,000 Germans. However, the infantry advance became hopelessly bogged down by the mud caused by heavy rain, especially around the village of Passchendaele.
* Around 250,000 casualties on the Allied side, with even more on the German side.

Gallipoli and its failure

* British government launched an attack on the Dardanelles Strait, which would help them get through to Russia to help in their campaigns.
* In March 1915, Britain’s powerful navy bombarded the forts that lined the strait BUT as they entered the strait, a combination of mines and shell fire from the forts doomed the attack. The Allied commanders decided that they would have to launch a land assault.
* Weather conditions and a strong Turkish defence meant that the British withdrew in December 1915.

The war at sea

* Britain and Germany both needed crucial supplies to be bought in by sea. The British navy’s main activity was to blockade German ports. By 1918, many Germans were starving and there was a mutiny in the German navy, leading to the German surrender in November 1918.
* The Germans fought back by using U-boats to attack ships coming to Britain. In 1915 a British ship, the Lusitania, was sunk killing 1198 citizens, including 128 US citizens. By May 1917, Britain was left with six weeks’ supply of some basic goods-luckily America entered the war in April 1917.
* The British began to defend their ships by introducing the convoy system-soon the amount of shipping destroyed by U-boats began to fall. The British also began to use massive underwater anti-submarine nets and laid minefields.

Battle of Jutland

* Germany aimed to end the blockade of their ports with this battle in the North Sea on 31st May 1916. The fighting continued through the night, but the Germans returned to their ports by morning.
* Britain lost 14 ships and 6000 sailors, with the Germans losing 13 ships and 2500 sailors.
* The Germans had achieved more given that the lost British ships were larger and more important than the German ships. However, the German fleet never came out again and they failed to end the blockade-the British controlled the sea for the rest of the war.

**Part three: Ending the war**

Consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution

* In November 1917 the Bolsheviks, the Communist Party of Russia, took control of the government.
* In March 1918 Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany that ended fighting between the two countries – it granted Germany resources and territory and freed up the German armies on the Eastern Front to move to the Western Front.
* Hundreds of thousands of German soldiers now had the opportunity to attack on the Western Front before the arrival of the Americans.

Reasons for American entry into the war

* In 1915 the sinking of the Lusitania passenger ship (which was carrying weapons as well!) caused the loss of over 1,000 lives, including 128 Americans. This resulted in massive American anger towards Germany.
* USA stepped up their supplies of the British and French with loans and equipment.
* In February 1917 the desperate Germans restarted unrestricted submarine warfare which caused enormous damage to US shipping.
* In 1917, the British intercepted a communication known as “The Zimmermann Telegram” in which Germany was attempting to persuade Mexico to invade the US. This was the final straw and the furious Americans declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917.
* Woodrow Wilson, the US President, believed that American entry into the war was necessary to protect democracy.

Impact of American entry into the war

* America had the third largest navy in the world; therefore its destroyers could be used on convoy duty to protect crucial food supplies on their way to Britain.
* US government was also willing to lend money to Britain to help buy war materials.
* In the short term, impact of US troops was minimal as they needed training and equipment.
* In summer 1918, 1 million US troops landed in France.

Evolution of tactics in 1918

* By early 1918, the Allies had increasing numbers of tanks that were able to deal with the terrain on the Western Front.
* Germany could no longer attack Britain from the air as successfully because the government had better searchlights, anti-aircraft guns and planes.
* The Royal Flying Corps had over 20,000 aircraft.

Ludendorff’s Spring Offensive

* By spring 1918, the German army was not the quality fighting machine it had once been – it needed a quick breakthrough to end the war.
* In March 1918, German Commander Ludendorff launched the great gamble to win the war.
* The offensive started with gas attacks and artillery bombardments. It was followed up with attacks by lightly equipped ‘storm troops’ along the entire front line.
* The Germans advanced 64km and were within artillery range of Paris.
* However, they lost 400,000 men and the advance was held up by ill-disciplined soldiers looting food and supplies.

Allied advance during the Hundred Days

* Between May and August 1918 the Germans made no further progress.
* Supported and supplied by the USA, the Allies counter-attacked on 8 August. Allied troops were supported by tanks, aircraft and improved artillery.
* 8 August became known as Germany’s ‘Black Day’.
* By late September, Germany had retreated to the defensive position known as the Hindenburg Line. By October the German army was in full retreat.

Impact of the blockade

* Starved of supplies, the German will to support the war had begun to weaken.
* From 1914-1918 there were 300,000 civilian deaths linked to malnutrition.
* In 1915 one-third of all pigs were slaughtered because there was not enough fodder to feed them.
* The blockade cut supplies of nitrates which were vital for fertiliser and explosives.
* In 1916, the German adult meat ration was the equivalent of two hamburgers per week.
* Protests and mutinies spread throughout Germany.

Armistice and abdication of the Kaiser

* In early November 1918 riots across German cities caused a crisis for the German government. The Kaiser’s abdication was seen as the only way to restore order and negotiate peace.
* On 9 November 1918 Germany became a republic – a country with no monarch, but an elected President.
* The Allies made a list of demands:

*All territory occupied by the Germans to be evacuated within a fortnight.*

*5,000 guns; 25,000 machine guns; 1,700 planes; 5,000 lorries; 5,000 railway engines; 150,00 trucks to be handed over.*

*All allied prisoners to be released.*

*Most of the German navy had to be surrendered.*

* The armistice (agreement to end the war) came into effect at 11am on 11 November 1918. The German politicians who signed the armistice were later unfairly accused of “Stabbing Germany in the back”.

Contribution of Sir Douglas Haig to Germany’s defeat:

* Commanded British armies from 1915 to the end of the war.
* Reputation damaged by huge casualties at the Somme in 1916.
* Actively promoted successful new strategies and technology whilst under the overall command of Marshal Foch.
* During spring 1918, led determined resistance against the German Offensive.
* His forces captured 200,000 prisoners and nearly 3,000 guns in the last 100 days.

Contribution of Marshal Foch to Germany’s defeat:

* Spring 1918, appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the Allied armies and spearheaded the planning that halted the German Offensive.
* Summer 1918-planned the last 100 days Offensive with Haig.
* His exact contribution to the victory has been a matter of debate due to disputes during the war involving French government and military leaders.