

## Content of GCSE course – USA at home & abroad 1954-75

Specification content			
<p><b>Key Topic 1.1 The position of black Americans in the early 1950s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segregation, discrimination and voting rights in the Southern states.</li> <li>• The work of civil rights organisations, including the NAACP and CORE.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Key Topic 1.2 Progress in education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key features of the Brown v. Topeka case (1954).</li> <li>• The immediate and long-term significance of the case.</li> <li>• The significance of the events at Little Rock High School, 1957.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Key Topic 1.3 The Montgomery Bus Boycott and its impact, 1955-60</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes and events of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The significance of Rosa Parks.</li> <li>• Reasons for the success and importance of the boycott. The Supreme Court ruling. The Civil Rights Act 1957.</li> <li>• The significance of the leadership of Martin Luther King. The setting up of the SCLC.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Key Topic 1.4 Opposition to the civil rights movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ku Klux Klan and violence, including the murder of Emmet Till in 1955.</li> <li>• Opposition to desegregation in the South. The setting up of White Citizens' Councils.</li> <li>• Congress and the 'Dixiecrats'.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Key Topic 2.1 Progress 1960-52</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significance of Greensboro and the sit-in movement.</li> <li>• The Freedom Riders. Ku Klux Klan violence and the Anniston bomb.</li> <li>• The James Meredith case, 1962.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Key Topic 2.2 Peaceful protests and their impact, 1963-65</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King and the peace marches of 1963 in Birmingham, Alabama, and Washington. Freedom summer and the Mississippi murders.</li> <li>• The roles of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and the passage of the Civil Rights Act 1964.</li> <li>• Selma and the Voting Rights Act 1965.</li> </ul>			

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<p><b>Key Topic 2.3 Malcolm X and Black Power, 1963-70</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malcolm X, his beliefs, methods and involvement with the Black Muslims. His later change of attitude and assassination.</li> <li>Reasons for the emergence of Black Power. The significance of Stokely Carmichael and the 1968 Mexico Olympics.</li> <li>The methods and achievements of the Black Panther movement.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Key Topic 2.4 The civil rights movement, 1965-75</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The riots of 1965–67 and the Kerner Report, 1968.</li> <li>King’s campaign in the North. The assassination of Martin Luther King and its impact.</li> <li>The extent of progress in civil rights by 1975.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Key Topic 3.1 Reasons for US involvement in the conflict in Vietnam, 1954-63</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The battle of Dien Bien Phu and the end of French rule in Vietnam.</li> <li>Reasons for greater US involvement under Eisenhower, including the domino theory and weaknesses of the Diem government.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater involvement under Kennedy, including the overthrow of Diem and the Strategic Hamlet Program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Topic 3.2 Escalation of the conflict under Johnson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The increasing threat of the Vietcong.</li> <li>The Gulf of Tonkin incident, 1964, and increased US involvement in Vietnam.</li> </ul>	•	•	•
<p><b>Key Topic 3.3 The nature of the conflict in Vietnam, 1964-68</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guerrilla tactics used by the Vietcong.</li> <li>The methods used by the USA, including Search and Destroy, Operation Rolling Thunder and chemical weapons.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The key features and significance of the Tet Offensive, 1968.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Topic 3.4 Changes under Nixon, 1969-73</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The key features of Vietnamisation. Reasons for its failure.</li> <li>The Nixon Doctrine and the withdrawal of US troops.</li> </ul>	•	•	•
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attacks on Cambodia, 1970, and Laos, 1971, and the bombing of North Vietnam, 1972.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Topic 4.1 Opposition to the war</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasons for the growth of opposition, including the student movement, TV and media coverage of the war and the draft system.</li> <li>Public reaction to the My Lai Massacre, 1968. The trial of Lt. Calley.</li> </ul>	•	•	•

Specification content			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kent State University shootings, 1970.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Topic 4.2 Support for the war</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasons for support for the war, including the fear of communism.</li> <li>The 'hard hats' and the 'silent majority'.</li> <li><i>Evaluation of interpretations on opposition and support for the war</i></li> </ul>	•	•	•
<p><b>Key Topic 4.3 The peace process and the end of the war</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasons for, and features of, the peace negotiations, 1972–73.</li> <li>The significance of the Paris Peace Agreement 1973.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The economic and human costs of the war for the USA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Topic 4.4 Reasons for the failure of the USA in Vietnam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strengths of North Vietnam, including the significance of Russian and Chinese support, Vietcong tactics and the Ho Chi Minh Trail.</li> </ul>	•	•	•
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The weaknesses of the US armed forces. The failure of US tactics.</li> <li>The impact of opposition to the war in the USA.</li> </ul>	•	•	•