



Year 8 Curriculum intent

The central aim of this curriculum is to enable students to understand the key events, movements, and figures that have shaped the ongoing struggle for democracy and equality throughout history. By studying these pivotal moments and their impacts, students will develop a deep appreciation for the complexities and challenges involved in achieving democratic governance and social equality. This curriculum seeks to inspire a sense of civic responsibility and an understanding of the importance of active participation in democratic processes.

Year 8 Curriculum Overview

Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4	Topic 5	Topic 6
Elizabethan England	Challenges to Royal Authority in the 17 th century	Transatlantic Slave Trade	British Empire	Industrial Revolution	Impact of World War I

Key Question

What factors influenced the struggle for democracy and equality over time?	What factors influenced the struggle for democracy and equality over time?	What factors influenced the struggle for democracy and equality over time?	What factors influenced the struggle for democracy and equality over time?	What factors influenced the struggle for democracy and equality over time?	What factors influenced the struggle for democracy and equality over time?
--	--	--	--	--	--

Key Vocabulary

- Poor Law Act - Religious Settlement - Golden Age - Exploration - Discovery - Spanish Armada - Succession - Protestant - Catholic	- Divine Right of Kings - Protestant - Catholic - Parliament - Civil War - Constitutional monarchy - Absolute monarchy	- Middle Passage - Triangle trade - Plantations - Abolition - Underground railroad - Slavery - Human rights - Exploration	- Mughal Empire - Trade - East India Company - Trading posts - Mutiny - Sepoys - Scramble for Africa	- Industrial Revolution - Technology - Massacre - Chartists - Reform - Philanthropist - Movement - Trade Unions	- Empire - Colony - Trenches - Stalemate - Vote - Suffrage - Movement - Protest - Electoral reform
--	--	--	--	--	--

The knowledge you will need to recall:

How you will apply this knowledge:

This links to:

1

Elizabethan England

You will learn about:

- The religious problems that Elizabeth I faces and the way that she attempts to resolve them.
- The social change that is caused by decisions Elizabeth makes to resolve issues with poverty.
- British expansion of power and its impact on Elizabethan England.

The skills focus of this HT unit is change and continuity. Students will apply their knowledge by:

- Describing the extent to which religion, foreign policy and society changed during the reign of Elizabeth I.
- Explaining how changes in England's position in the world impacted their power.

This unit explores the changes that Elizabeth I makes to England in terms of foreign policy, society and religion. This fits into the overarching theme of the struggle for democracy and equality as Elizabeth tries to create compromise between conflicting religions in England to give both a sense of power. The expansion of English power relates to this struggle as explorers seek to take English political ideas abroad during her reign. The role of monarchy begins to change as, democratically, parliament have more of a say in ruling.

2

Challenges to Royal Authority in the 17th Century

You will learn about:

- The causes of consequences of the Civil War
- The restoration of the monarchy and growth of parliament
- The Glorious Revolution and the significance of the Bill of Rights in leading to the growth of a constitutional monarchy

The skills focus of this HT unit is similarity and difference. Students will apply their knowledge by:

- Identifying the political change that occurred during the 17th Century and the impact that this had on English society.
- Assessing which ruler out of Elizabeth I, James I and William of Orange caused the most change for life in England.

This unit explores the causes of the Civil War and the change that this causes for English society. This fits into the overarching theme of struggle for democracy and equality as the Parliamentarians fought for their right to represent the people without limitations from the King, resulting in a constitutional monarchy that made England more democratic.

3

Transatlantic Slave Trade

You will learn about:

- The origins of the slave trade and the different parts of the trade triangular system.
- The experiences of enslaved people living on plantations
- The impact of the work of abolitionists at helping to abolish slavery.

This skill focus of this HT unit is significance. Students will apply their knowledge by:

- Describing what happened at each different part of the triangular trade system.
- Explaining what life was like on a plantation for the enslaved people.
- Determining the main reason for the abolishment of slavery in Britain.

This unit explores the triangular trade system and focuses on the different reason as to why slavery was abolished in Britain. This fits into the overarching theme of struggle for democracy and equality as many white and black campaigners fought for an end to slavery due to racial inequality. This links to the next HT unit as we explore how slavery played a role in expanding British power and developing the Empire.

4

British Empire

You will learn about:

- The vast land that the British Empire encompassed.
- The impact the British Empire had on India.
- The social, economic, and political impact of the East India Company
- The Scramble for Africa

The skill focus of this HT is significance. Students will apply their knowledge by:

- Analysing the content and provenance of interpretations to decipher why historians have different opinions on the past
- Explaining how the British Empire made Britain the most powerful nation in the world.

This unit explores the role and impact of the British Empire across the globe. This fits into the overarching theme of the struggle for democracy and equality as the British expanded their power abroad to share their democratic values whilst contradictorily taking away the freedoms of native peoples. This expansion coupled with the downfall of the Empire explores the ways in which colonialism caused inequality from the 17th to the 20th century.

5

Industrial Revolution

You will learn about:

- The positive and negative impacts of the Industrial Revolution on British society, economy, and politics
- The way the Industrial Revolution inspired political change in Britain

The skill focus of this HT unit is significance. Students will apply their knowledge by:

- Explaining how the Peterloo Massacre, Chartist Movement, Reform Act, and Creation of Trade Unions changed Britain
- Determining which event had the greatest impact on change in Britain

This unit explores the extent to which the Industrial Revolution changed British society, economy and politics. It also builds on the role of parliament in developing a democratic and equal society, as many laws and acts were passed to improve the lives of ordinary people from 1750-1900.

6

Impact of WW1

You will learn about:

- Long- and short-term causes of World War One.
- Trench warfare and conditions in the trenches.
- The home front.
- Role of Women in war.
- Suffragettes and Suffragists and their impact.

The skill focus of this HT unit is change and continuity. Students will apply their knowledge by:

- Explaining how much life changes from the 19th to 20th centuries. Students will compare three time periods from a given list to determine how much life continued or changed over 1800 and 1900.

This unit explores the impact of WWI on changing British society and politics. This fits into the overarching theme of the struggle for democracy and equality as it explores the plight of women in war and their fight for political equality as a result of their changing role in society. It also links to previous topics as we expand on the impact of government in conflict abroad.