

AQA - A-Level History – Preparatory Summer Work

If you have any questions about this material, the course or anything history related please feel free to contact me (Andrew) by email at amo@woking.ac.uk

A-level history does require a much greater degree of independent learning so this current crisis situation should give you plenty of time to do that. I would encourage you to listen to Podcasts, watch documentaries and consider doing some reading.

The three units you will be doing at Woking are:

1D Breadth – Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702

2P Depth – The Transformation of China, 1936-1997

3 Coursework – The development of Modern Russia 1855-1964

So any background material on these three units will help. However, the following work will focus on giving you some background to the two examined units (1 and 2.)

Most of this work is based around doing a bit of research and engaging with the videos provided.

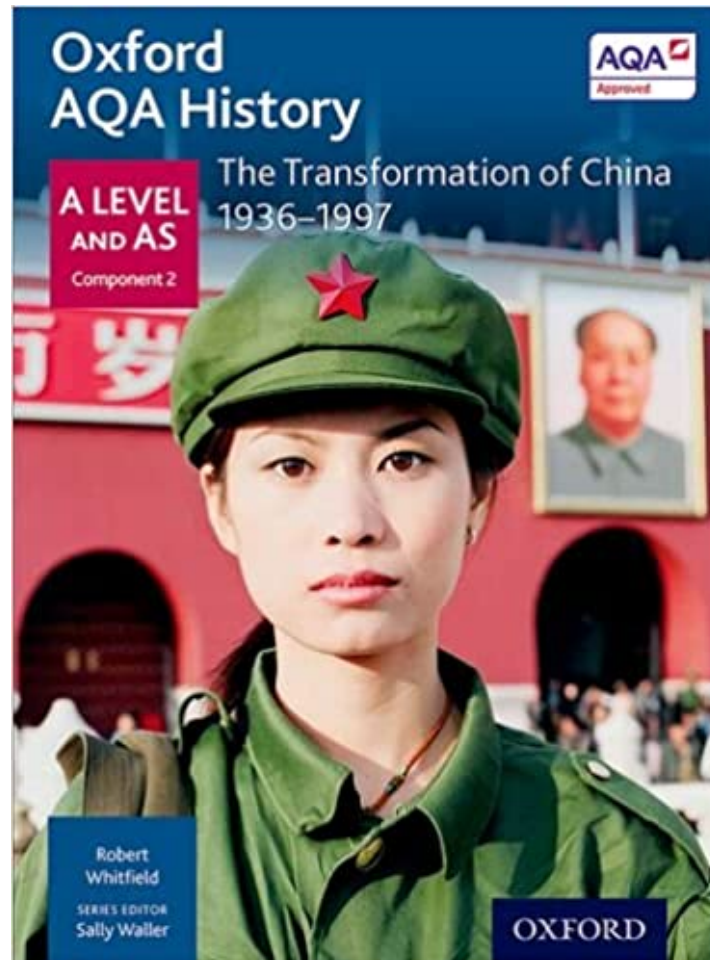
Please ensure you complete as many of the questions as you can but you can also follow this guidance for the level of challenge you wish to accept!

❖ **Basic level of challenge**

❖ **Intermediate challenge**

❖ **Full challenge!**

2P Transformation of China



Use the internet to complete some research to help answer the questions

Imperial China regarded itself as a great civilisation. It had been an imperial system since 200BC and considered itself the centre of the world.

However, by the 1800s China was clearly in decline. Unlike European powers it was unable to modernise and industrialise effectively and became prey to foreign powers and internal problems.

The film *The Last Emperor* documents the life of the last emperor of China (1908-1911) – Puyi – watch the clip below



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hm9OHshFDco>

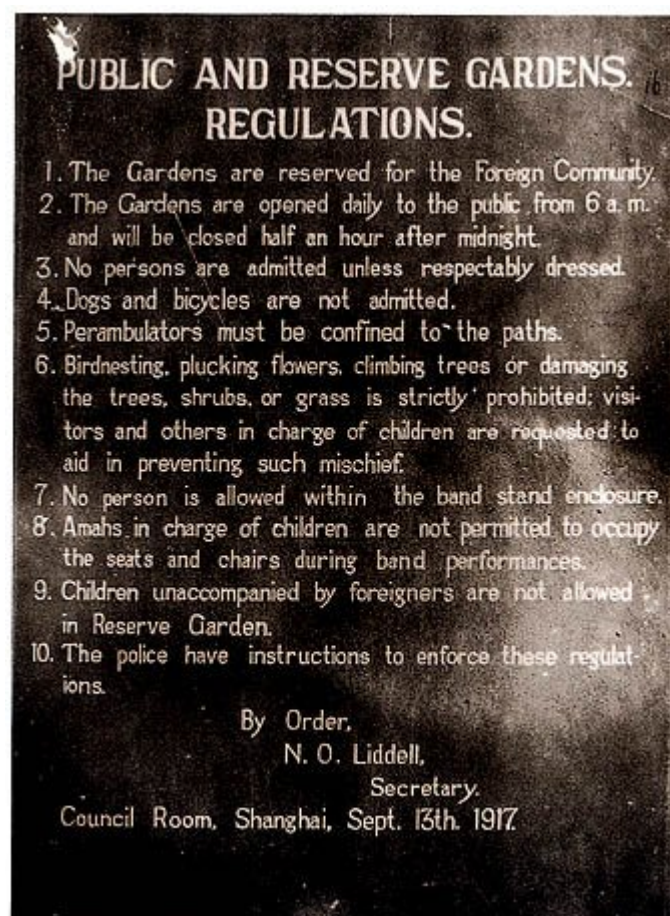
1. **What does the clip suggest about the modernity of the imperial system at the start of the 20th Century? (how does this compare with the UK or Europe)**
2. **Do some research on the Taiping Rebellion – a rebellion in which as many as 20,000,000 died – what caused the rebellion and why was it so bloody?**



3. **Why did Britain force China to trade in Opium during the Opium Wars?**

Imperial China began to be carved up by foreign powers. These powers established Treaty Ports to trade (on their own terms) with China. These Treaty Ports were hated by patriotic Chinese citizens. Read the sign below – this was posted by British authorities in 1917 in Huangpu Park.

4. Why were these rules offensive to Chinese patriots?



In 1900 the vast majority of Chinese people were peasants. Many lived in dire poverty and were exploited by wealthy landlords.

One sign of the pre-modern conditions was the practice of foot binding.

5. Describe the practice of foot binding and explain the reasons for its existence

Imperial China eventually collapsed under the weight of the many unresolved problems that existed in China. The revolutionary nationalist leader Sun Yat-sen helped lead this revolution. However, he was quickly sidelined by military leaders and China collapsed into a period of internal civil war. The state broke up into smaller territories controlled by warlords.

6. Have a look at the map below, do some research see if you can find out the name and attributes of any of the warlords who controlled the different territories. Annotate the map



Competing to replace this warlord chaos with central authority two major political parties emerged. The Koumintang (KMT) Nationalist Party and the Chinese Communist Party.

These two sides initially worked together in a United Front to try and establish a central government.

However, in 1927 right-wing Nationalist Generals turned on the Communist Party.

7. Describe what happened in the Shanghai massacre

8. What role did this Gang leader play in the events and Nationalist Government?



As the Nationalist government established its authority over China they sought to eliminate the Chinese Communist Party.

The Party only escaped annihilation by embarking on the Long March. During this march Mao Zedong rose to leadership of the CCP.

9. What were the key features of Mao's ideology?

10. **How heroic was the Long March?**

The Communist Party were only saved by the pressing threat of Japan.

11. **Describe the key events of the Xian Incident.**

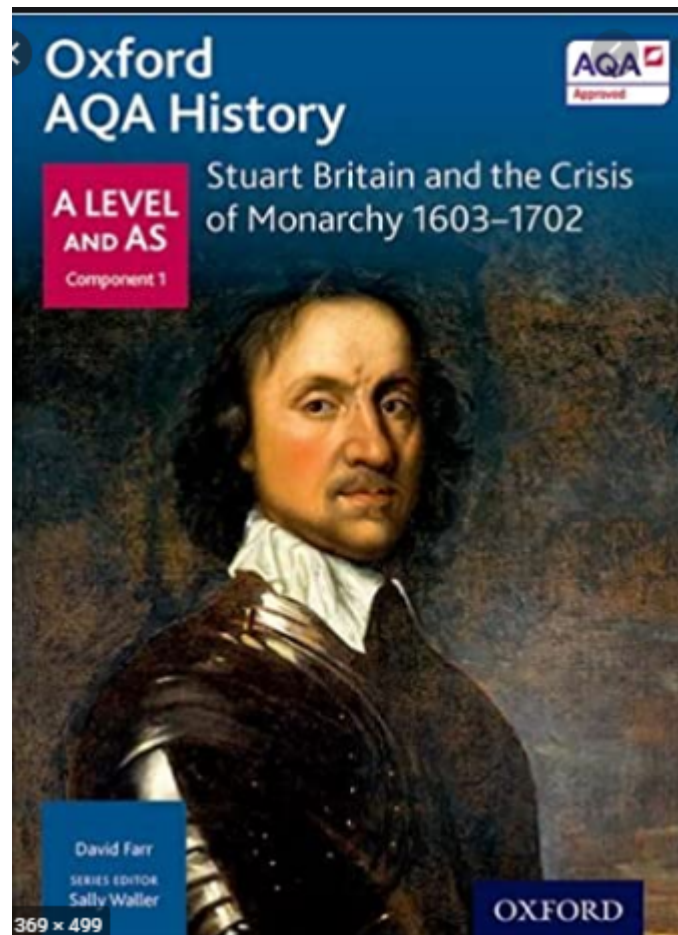
Extension Questions Work

I would strongly recommend getting hold of *Wild Swans* which is a great read and gives you a great context to the course.

These other events and areas are very interesting:

- **The Great Leap Forward – why was this such a disaster?**
- **The Cultural Revolution – what happened during this campaign?**
- **How has China transformed into an economic superpower since the death of Mao?**
- **Is China really still communist?**
- **What happened at Tiananmen Square?**
- **What does' China's handling of the current COVID crisis tell you about its society and state?**

1D Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy



In 1603 James I became the first Stuart Monarch of England. He had been King of Scotland (James VI) since 1567 and was the first King to unify the Kingdom of England and Scotland.

He inherited a stable throne from Elizabeth Tudor who had ruled very successfully.

However, the success of Elizabeth masked a number of very significant problems which bubbled under the surface of Tudor England.

Under the stability of the Tudors the economic and society of Early Modern England was changing rapidly. More modern and capitalist agricultural techniques helped the growth of population and economy and the increasingly urbanisation of England. Increased trade and merchant wealth was changing the shape of society. This was a problem for a society which was meant to be rigidly delineated on status and where status tended to be based on land and titles rather than mercantile wealth.

It was also a problem for the government which based itself around a feudal court. The court was meant to govern through patronage in which the monarch would keep in contact with the nobility and promote them into government. However, keeping in contact with a much bigger population was increasingly difficult.

The impact of price inflation and population growth also produced inequality and poverty which Elizabeth had tried to solve with the Poor Laws.

Also, without a modern state to increase taxes the government was in effect becoming poorer in spite of the growing riches of the country.

Finally, the issue of religion was central to the functioning of society. Elizabeth had tried to promote unity through compromise. Her religious policy was to promote protestant theology whilst maintaining a lot of the structure and ceremony of the old Catholic Church.

Toward the end of her reign Elizabeth faced growing criticism from her parliament from 'puritans' who wanted more protestant reform in the Church.



The Puritans would go on to be a revolutionary force in the 17th century. Watch this clip from Blackadder.

1. How are the Puritans presented?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcnxsDOxcOA&t=21s>
Blackadder Puritans

Do some research

2. How accurate is this presentation?

One of the first major challenges James had to face was from Catholics in the Gunpowder Plot.



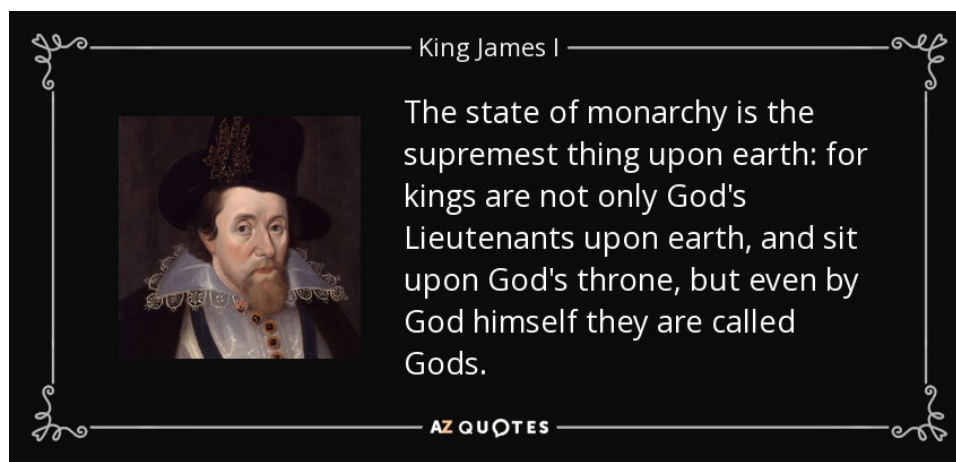
Watch the documentary below to answer the questions...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMLHau_rBJ8&t=6

3. What happened during the Plot?

4. How plausible is the conspiracy theory that the plot was encouraged by the King's key minister?

The constitutional theory underpinning monarchy in the early 1600s was the Divine Right of Kings. The Stuart's emphasized this theory to justify their rule.



5. Describe the theory of the Divine Right of Kings

James I wasn't necessarily a successful King but he did like to avoid major conflict and managed to muddle through his reign. However, his son and heir Charles I was very different in style. Once he became King conflict with his subjects and particularly parliament rapidly increased.

His religious policies and political style meant that he was seen by a growing puritan opposition as a dictator or absolute monarch.

Watch the clip from the 1970 film Cromwell. This depicts the King's entry into parliament to arrest 5 dissenting MPs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDsAn_u70tw

6. Why was this such a significant event in the causes of the Civil War between Crown and Parliament?

Between 1642 and 1649 England, Scotland and Ireland were torn apart by Civil Wars. In England the country was divided into Roundheads (parliamentarians) and Cavaliers (Monarchists.) One of the first significant battles was Edgehill in 1642. Watch the clip from the 1970 film Cromwell.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBGHoIXGi3A> Edgehill
Cromwell

7. What differences are there between Roundheads and Cavaliers?

8. How is Cromwell's attitude to the war different from the other military leaders of the Roundheads?

9. How accurate is this depiction of the battle?

The Regicide of 1649 was the first time a King had been tried and killed.

10. What was the King accused of?

11. Who tried the King?

12. Was the King guilty?

Extension

The Devil's Whore on 40D is a good drama series which is well worth watching. It brings out the chaos of the 1640s well.

- 13. What cause the outbreak of Civil War in 1642?**
- 14. How far was Charles I an autocrat or absolute monarch?**
- 15. Was 1649 the culmination of a broader revolution?**
- 16. Was Cromwell motivated by a desire for power?**
- 17. Who were the Diggers and why did they start a commune in Surrey?**
- 18. What was the role of women in the Civil War?**