

3.11 Unit A022: *How far did British society change, 1939–1975?*

Candidates choose EITHER this British Depth Study or the British Depth Study unit A021: *How was British society changed, 1890–1918?*

This unit involves historical enquiry into a period of British history. It gives candidates opportunities to investigate specific historical questions, problems and issues; use a range of historical sources and reach reasoned conclusions; and analyse and evaluate how the past has been interpreted and represented in different ways. Candidates will be expected to use their contextual knowledge to help them comprehend, interpret, evaluate and use sources and historical interpretations and representations. They will also be expected to use their knowledge and understanding, as well as sources, to evaluate a historical issue relating to the period studied.

The specified content is defined through Key Questions and Focus Points. The Key Questions encourage an issues-based and investigative approach to the content. Focus Points indicate the issues that need to be addressed in each Key Question. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate understanding of the Key Questions and Focus Points using knowledge of relevant historical examples.

Key Question: How far did British society change, 1939–1975?

Focus Points

- What impact did the Second World War have on the British people?
 - What immigrants were living in Britain in 1945?
 - Why did different groups migrate to Britain between 1948 and 1972?
 - What were the experiences of immigrants in Britain?
 - What contribution had immigrants made to British society by the early 1970s?
 - What was the impact of the National Health Service on people's lives?
 - What was life like for most women in the 1950s?
 - How were women discriminated against in the 1960s and early 1970s?
 - What factors led to changes in the roles of women?
 - How much change had taken place for women by 1975?
 - What was it like growing up in the 1950s?
 - Why were there changes in the lives of teenagers in the 1960s?
 - How did teenagers and students behave in the 1960s and early 1970s?
 - How far did the lives of all teenagers change in the 1960s and early 1970s?
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Specified Content

Britain as a multi-cultural society in 1939. The experiences and impact of groups such as Italian and German prisoners of war, GIs and Commonwealth soldiers. Immigration from the Caribbean, India, Pakistan and Uganda. The experiences of these immigrants and attitudes towards them. The contribution made to British society by immigrants. The riots in 1958 and the activities of the British National Party (National Front). Legislation relating to immigration and race in the 1960s and early 1970s. Enoch Powell in 1968. The emergence of a multi-cultural society by the mid 1970s.

The changing role and the contribution of women during the Second World War, for example, civil defence, the land army, factory work, joining the armed forces and looking after families. The impact of these changes after the war. Women in the 1950s. Discrimination in the 1960s and early 1970s. The impact of the introduction of the Pill, the 'women's lib' movement. Abortion. The 1969 Divorce Law Reform Act, the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. The extent of the progress made by 1975.

The experiences of children during the Second World War: the Blitz, evacuation, rationing, diet, children's health and education, the absence of fathers. The increasing awareness on the part of the middle classes of the condition of working-class children. The Beveridge Report. The creation and impact of the National Health Service. The lives of teenagers in the 1950s, the impact of increased affluence, the impact of American culture on British teenagers. The introduction of comprehensive education and university expansion. Student protests in the 1960s. Youth culture, for example, Mods and Rockers, the growing popularity and impact of rock music, clothes and fashion. Teenagers as consumers. The reactions of the authorities to these changes. The extent to which the lives of all teenagers were changed by the mid-1970s.
