




# History GCSE Knowledge Organiser: America 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality

## Part One: American people and the 'Boom'

Essential Knowledge Storage	Key Terms	Example Exam Question												
<p>The USA had become an industrial nation before the 1920s due to its large supply of national resources. During the 1920s there was huge industrial and economic growth due to innovations in technology and science.</p> <p>This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a very difficult half a century of change. It was a period of opportunity and inequality – when some Americans lived the “American dream” whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice.</p> <p><b>Key events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1917- Russian Revolution</li> <li>• 1919- Volstead Act- 18<sup>th</sup> amendment (effect from 1920)</li> <li>• 1920- 19<sup>th</sup> amendment- women gain the right to vote</li> <li>• 1921- Emergency Quota Act</li> <li>• 1927- Sacco and Vanzetti Case</li> <li>• 1929- St Valentine’s Day Massacre</li> <li>• 1929- The Wall Street Crash</li> <li>• 1933- end of Prohibition</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bootlegger-</b> a person who makes, distributes or sells alcohol illegally</p> <p><b>Credit-</b> ability to obtain a product before payment. Payment will be made in the future, usually in instalments.</p> <p><b>Democrat-</b> liberal, left-wing. Likely to support workers rights.</p> <p><b>Flappers-</b> A fashionable young woman intent on enjoying herself, breaking conventional standards of behaviour.</p> <p><b>Hire purchase-</b> paying for goods on a weekly or monthly basis.</p> <p><b>Hooverville-</b> a shanty town built by the unemployed</p> <p><b>Isolationism-</b> a policy of remaining out of the political affairs of other countries.</p> <p><b>Jim Crow Laws-</b> laws created in the southern states limiting the rights of black people.</p> <p><b>Laissez Faire-</b> a policy in which businesses are ‘left alone’ without high taxes, government intervention or control.</p> <p><b>Prohibition-</b> the banning of the making, selling or transporting of alcohol.</p> <p><b>Red Scare-</b> a widespread fear of the rise of communism</p> <p><b>Republican-</b> Conservative, right-wing. Based on individual rights and justice. Traditionally stand for business, little intervention and low taxes.</p> <p><b>Rugged individualism-</b> a Republican idea that people can succeed on their own without government interference.</p> <p><b>Speakeasies-</b> an illegal liquor shop or drinking club</p> <p><b>Tariffs-</b> taxes placed on imports</p>	<p><b>Question 1 – How does interpretation A differ from interpretation B about...? (4 marks)</b> Example – How does interpretation A differ from interpretation B about the Montgomery Bus Boycott?</p> <p><b>Question 2 – Why does interpretation A differ from interpretation B about...? (4 marks)</b> Example – Why does interpretation A differ from interpretation B about Al Capone?</p> <p><b>Question 3 – Which interpretation is more convincing about? (8 marks)</b> Example – Which interpretation is more convincing about the New Deal?</p> <p><b>Question 4 – Describe... (4 marks)</b> Example – describe the Washington march</p> <p><b>Question 5 – How... (8 marks)</b> Example – How was the New Deal opposed?</p> <p><b>Question 6 – Which of the following was the more important reason for...? (12 marks)</b> Example – Which was the more important reason for economic recovery after the depression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Deal</li> <li>• Second World War?</li> </ul>												
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## Part Two: Bust Americans' experiences of the Depression and the New Deal

Essential Knowledge Storage	Key Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wall Street Crash in 1929 led to economic depression in the 1930s.</li> <li>• President Hoover failed to solve the problems created by the Crash.</li> <li>• Roosevelt won the election in 1932 promising a New Deal.</li> <li>• New Deal reforms focused on Relief, Recovery and Reform.</li> <li>• New Deal reforms had mixed success, e.g. unemployment fell but still millions were unemployed.</li> <li>• Some groups received less help than others, e.g. farmers, African Americans.</li> <li>• There was considerable opposition to the New Deal from Republicans and the Supreme Court.</li> <li>• The Second World War revived the economy with millions of job opportunities in the armed forces and in industries.</li> <li>• Women's roles changed significantly during the war.</li> <li>• African Americans were much in demand during the war; but the expectations of African Americans that living conditions would improve after the war were mostly unfulfilled.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alphabet Agencies-</b> federal agencies created as part of the New Deal.</p> <p><b>Bonus army-</b> First World War veterans who protested in Washington to demand early war pensions.</p> <p><b>Dust Bowl-</b> an area of land where vegetation has been lost and soil reduced to dust due to drought.</p> <p>Fireside chats- radio speeches by Roosevelt which attracted up to 60 million listeners.</p> <p><b>Speculators-</b> a person who invests in stock and property in the hope of making a profit. Often borrowed money from banks to buy the shares (buying on the margin)</p> <p><b>War bonds-</b> finance issued by the government to fund military operations and wartime production.</p> 

## Part Three: Post-War America

Essential Knowledge Storage	Key Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The USA emerged from the Second World War by far the strongest world power.</li> <li>• The 'sunny side' of American life in the 1950s focused on the American Dream and the pleasure of consumerism.</li> <li>• Lifestyles, especially for the young, were changing with developments in popular culture, including pop music and rock and roll.</li> <li>• Television has an impact in the homes of all who could afford a set.</li> <li>• McCarthyism uncovered the dark side of the USA- with witch hunts carried out against suspected Communists.</li> <li>• Racial tensions reached their peak in the 1950s and 1960s, with peaceful protests led by MLK.</li> <li>• The Black Power movement argued that violence was needed to improve the lot of African Americans.</li> <li>• African Americans gained basic rights in law with the Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s.</li> <li>• The 'Great Society' promises of Kennedy and Johnson were partly overtaken by expenditure on the Vietnam War.</li> <li>• Women gained more rights and the age of 'women's lib' was born.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Boycott-</b> to withdraw from relations with a country, organisation or person as a form of protest.</p> <p><b>Civil Rights-</b> the rights of people to equal social and political freedom.</p> <p><b>Feminism-</b> the promotion of women's rights on the basis of equality of the sexes.</p> <p><b>The 'Great Society'</b>- series of policy initiatives, legislation and programmes introduced by LBJ aiming to end poverty, reduce crime, abolish inequality and improve the environment.</p> <p><b>McCarthyism-</b> extreme anti-Communist views</p> <p><b>New Frontier-</b> term used to tackle poverty in the USA</p> <p><b>Segregation-</b> the action of setting someone or something apart from others.</p> <p><b>Sit-ins-</b> a non-violent act of civil disobedience of sitting in 'white only' public spaces.</p>

