

Bridging the Gap...

Activities to help you prepare for A-Level History at New College Durham



New College Durham

In your first term of studying A-Level History you'll be immersing yourself in all things Twentieth Century Britain.

To help you prepare for this there are 3 activities below for you to engage with.

Read through Churchill's statement below. He has just read a new book by Joseph Rowntree *Poverty: A Study of Town Life*. What do his comments suggest to you about life in Britain at the start of the twentieth century?

Task 2

Task 1

Watch this 15 minute video clip. What can you learn about life in the new century?

<https://youtu.be/meC5ZI5PC1U>

Winston Churchill went straight out for a copy and was soon telling an audience in Blackpool about how it 'fairly made my hair stand on end'. In one review he wrote about the York poor: 'Although the British Empire is so large, they cannot find room to live in it; although it is so magnificent, they would have had a better chance of happiness if they had been born cannibal islanders of the Southern Seas ... this festering life at home makes world-wide power a mockery.' Writing to the chairman of the Midland Conservatives, Churchill returned to the theme. American labourers were better fed and more efficient than British ones: 'this is surely a fact which our unbridled Imperialists, who have no thought but to pile up armaments, taxation and territory, should not lose sight of. For my own part, I see little glory in an empire which can rule the waves and is unable to flush its sewers.'⁸

Have a look at the cartoon below. What can you infer about Britain in 1900?

Task 3



Go to <https://www.wooclap.com/YEAR11>. Alternatively you can take part by texting @YEAR11 to (0113) 320 9662. Thinking about the three activities, choose ten words to describe life in Britain at the start of the twentieth century. Add these to the word cloud.

