**History Department:**

**A Level Paper 1.**

**(AQA SECTION 4: TOPIC: Transformation**

**and change, 1939-1964)**

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| **Sub-topics** | |
| 4.1 | The impact of the Second World War on British politics |
| 4.2 | Political developments |
| 4.3 | Economic developments |
| 4.4 | Social changes and divisions |
| 4.5 | Developments in social policy |
| 4.6 | The condition of Ireland and Anglo-Irish relations |

**Key points**

* Churchill’s coalition government, whilst not completely faultless, managed to rule in a strong, stable and effective manner. He never doubted that GB would be ultimately victorious against Nazi Germany and wooed The USA to assist GB.
* The 1945 Election victory for the Labour Party might seem as ungrateful, yet the public desired change and believed that only the socialists could provide it.
* Whilst the Labour Party introduced Nationalisation of a large part of the economy and introduced massive social legislation initiatives, such as the NHS, the period is considered by many to be one of ‘consensus’. Both political parties recognised the need for more of a planned economy and greater provision of social welfare for the vulnerable in society.
* Rapid changes in society occurred with people generally enjoying more leisure time and affluence. Music, fashion, holidays all saw quick changes as people believed in MacMillan’s statement that, ”You’ve never had it so good”.
* After a period of relative calm, tensions rose again in Northern Ireland as the growing Catholic minority sought a greater degree of equality.

**Possible tasks: A Level document questions and essays.**

Question 1 on the paper is always a document question and is compulsory. You will have 60 minutes to complete.

You will then answer 2 essay questions out of a choice of three. Each essay should take 45 minutes.

Documents:

Additional specimen question paper: Growth of affluence of the working classes, 1930-1964.

2019: Social change in GB in the years 1945-1964.

Essays:

To what extent was there a ‘post-war consensus’ in Britain in the years 1945-1964?

‘The years 1945 to 1964 were a period of consensus over financial and economic policy.’ Assess the validity of this view.

‘In the years 1945 to 1964, the Conservatives had strong, effective leaders; whereas Labour’s leaders were weak and ineffective.’ Assess the validity of this view.

**Key Vocabulary**

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| **Key terms** | |
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**Stretch and Challenge/I Wider reading/independent research**