**A-Level History**



**Britain 1906-57**

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**Germany 1871-1991**

**Bridging course – Week 2**

**Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957**

**Recap task – (use your knowledge from week 1 tasks)**

1. **What was life like in the early 1900s?**
2. **What were the key problems in Britain during this time that a government in 1906 will have to deal with?**
3. **What are the main political parties of this period?**

**Prime Ministers**

**Task One – Using the key information from the table and your own research complete the table of Prime Ministers to form an overview from 1906-1957.**

**This will be really helpful for you to refer back to throughout the A-Level course and to help with your chronological understanding of the unit.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years** | **Prime Minister** | **Political Party** | **Other info** | **Monarch** |
| 1906-1908 |  |  | * Won landslide ***general election in 1906*** to become PM. Died in 1908. | **Edward VII**  Jan 1901-May 1910  (Died) |
| 1908-1916 |  |  | * Took power when Campbell-Bannerman died. * He won ***Jan 1910 general election*** but no majority- needed Irish Nationalist support. * He won ***Dec 1910 general election*** but again needed Irish Nationalist support. * Early in 1915 formed a wartime coalition government with mainly Conservatives. He couldn’t keep their support and so resigned in 1916. |
| **George V**  May 1910-Jan 1936  (Died) |
| 1916-1922 |  |  | * Took over wartime coalition in 1916. * Won ***general election in 1918*** (called ‘coupon election’) and wartime coalition with Conservatives continued. * Forced to resign in 1922 due to scandals/loss of support. |
| 1922-1923 |  |  | * Had already enjoyed much power in LG coalition government. * When LG stepped down, he returned from ill health to temporarily take over. * ***General election called in 1922*** which he won. |
| 1923-1924 |  |  | * Took power when Bonar Law had to resign due to ill health. * Called ***general election in Dec 1923*** to get mandate. * He won this election but Liberal/Labour support grew and he took it as a sign of no confidence and resigned. |
| 1924 |  |  | * He was asked to form a Labour minority government, along with Liberal support. * PM from January to October 1924. * Lost general election in Oct 1924 (due to Labour association with communism, Zinoviev letter etc). |
| 1924-1929 |  |  | * Won ***Oct 1924 general election*** and in power for 5 years. |
| 1929-1935 |  |  | * Won ***general election in 1929*** with a majority of seats in the House of Commons for the first time. * Led Labour government from 1929 to 1931 when he went to the palace to meet George V to resign. * Asked to lead a National Government from 1931. National Government won ***general election of 1931***. |
| 1935-1937 |  |  | * When MacDonald resigned in 1935 due to ill-health, he took over. * National Government won ***general election in 1935***. |
| **Edward VIII** Jan- Dec 1936 (Abdicated) |
| **George VI**  Dec 1936- Feb 1952  (Died) |
| 1937-1940 |  |  | * When Baldwin retired in 1937, he became PM of National Government. * He led wartime coalition government through first year of war and resigned in May 1940. |
| 1940-1945 |  |  | * He was PM from 1940 to 1945, leading the wartime coalition government, and became known as the great wartime leader. |
| 1945-51 |  |  | * Won ***general election in July 1945*** with a large majority of 145 seats. Huge success for Labour Party. * Welfare State established during this government. * Also won ***general election of 1950*** although very tight victory. |
| 1951-1955 |  |  | * Won ***general election of 1951*** although very tight victory. * Suffered much ill-health and in some ways was an absentee PM. Retired in 1955. |
| **Elizabeth II** Feb 1952- to present  (Still reigning) |
| 1955-1957 |  |  | * Had been Churchill’s Deputy PM. Finally became PM once Churchill retired. * He decided to go for an early general election, therefore called a ***general election in May 1955***. * He resigned in Jan 1957 after Suez crisis, due to ill-health. |
| 1957-1963 |  |  | * He took over in 1957 and was PM until 1963. |

**Task Two – Using your overview above answer the following questions.**

1. **Can you see any patterns in your Prime Minister overview of the period?**
2. **Is there anything that surprised you looking at the list? If so what and why?**
3. **Can you see a change in Political parties during this time?**
4. **Can you think of any key events that may have impacted some of these elections?**
5. **Which Prime Minister are you most interested in finding out about from the list? And why?**

**Task Three**

**Looking at the list of Prime Ministers you should be able to identify the three key political parties in this British course.**

**On the graph below I would like you to plot a line for each of the parties based on their rise and fall of success during the period.**

1. What can you learn from your line graph about changes during this period of British History?
2. Which party loses success during this time period?
3. Which party develops during this time period?
4. Why do you think this might be? Can you think of reasons for this?
5. Are there any periods when one party dominates? Why do you think this might be?

**Task Four**

Focusing on the Labour party I want you to use the list of Prime Ministers and the key info to fill out the table on the next page.

I then also want you to include some of your own research on the Labour party to explain their performance in each decade.

You should also be able to use your political party information from last week to help with this.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1900s** | **1910s** | **1920s** | **1930s** | **1940s** | **1950s** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Please ensure you keep this work safe as it will be a useful overview to have throughout A-Level History.