



AQA A Level History at Richard Challoner School

There are two components that make up the A level course:

Component 1J (**British Empire 1857-1967**)

Component 2O (**Germany 1918-45**)

[AQA History Specification](#)

Completing the activities listed below will be excellent preparation for what is a fascinating course. Immediately after each of these (before you forget), you should complete the Sixth Form Induction Tasks Worksheet.

Component 1 The British Empire 1857-1967

Films/Documentaries

[Empire. Making ourselves at home](#)

[Empire: A Taste for Power](#)

In the links above, Jeremy Paxman looks at various aspects of the British Empire such as how traders, conquerors and settlers spread the British way of life around the world by creating a very British home. There are 4 other programmes in this series so watch them all if you can.

Another short documentary can also be found in the link below:

[Empire Builders](#)

Articles/introductory reading

On <https://www.showbie.com/> (class code 3UYMQ) you will find 3 short chapters on the British Empire to read and take brief notes on.

Activities

Research task Choose one colony of the British Empire (it would be good if you have a connection with it!) and design a presentation/poster on its position within the British Empire. (*Include a map, date of colonisation and how it was obtained; indigenous peoples, geography, main products, date of independence.*)



Component 2 Germany 1918-45

There are three 'routes' into this fascinating period you could take before starting the course in September:

Route 1: What was Germany like before 1918?

Suggested Activity: Watch [The War that Made the Nazis](#) This Channel 4 documentary draws interesting and important connections between the experience and impact of the 1st World War upon Germany, and the emergence of Nazism in the years that followed it.

Route 2: What was it like to have lived in Germany at this time?

Suggested Activity: Read ['The Past Is Myself'](#) – Christabel Bielenberg. A fascinating memoir of an upper class English woman living in Hamburg and married to a German who is close to the circle of conservative resistance leaders involved in the plot to kill Hitler. Very readable and full of perceptive observations about the Nazi dictatorship.

Route 3: Where did it all end?

Suggested Activity: Watch [Albert Speer: The Nazi who said Sorry](#). Speer was Hitler's architect and later Minister of Armaments in the last years of WW2. This documentary is particularly important as it is based upon a monumental study of Speer made by Austrian-born Gita Sereny (who as a young woman attended the Nuremberg Trials with her father). For the greater part of her adult life, Sereny sought to discover the truth about Albert Speer. Specifically, had Speer been truthful when he claimed at Nuremberg that he didn't know about the Holocaust, but should have known.

Goering's Last Stand <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r3-xy7qbLo> is a drama-documentary about Goering's defiant self-defence at the Nuremberg Trials.

Both documentaries are fascinating and important in their own way. The one on Speer is perhaps more valuable as it explores the motivation of a man who had not even been a member of the Nazi Party.

Articles/introductory reading

On <https://www.showbie.com/> (class code 3UYMQ) you will find 2 short articles on the Germany to read and take brief notes on.