

## Option 33: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

Key topic 1: The development of the civil rights movement, 1954–60	
<b>1 The position of Black Americans in the early 1950s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Segregation, discrimination and voting rights in the Southern states.</li> <li>The work of civil rights organisations, including the NAACP and CORE.</li> </ul>
<b>2 <del>Progress</del> Developments in education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Reasons for</u>, <del>The</del> key features <u>and significance</u> of the Brown v. Topeka case (1954).  <del>—The immediate and long-term significance of the case.</del></li> <li><u>Reasons for, key events and</u> <del>The</del> significance of the events at Little Rock High School (1957).</li> </ul>
<b>3 The Montgomery Bus Boycott and its impact, 1955–60</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Causes and events of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The significance of Rosa Parks.</li> <li>Reasons for the success and importance of the boycott. The Supreme Court ruling. The Civil Rights Act (1957).</li> <li>The significance of the leadership of Martin Luther King. The setting up of the SCLC.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Opposition to the civil rights movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ku Klux Klan and violence, including the murder of Emmet Till in 1955.</li> <li>Opposition to desegregation in the South, <u>including the 'Dixiecrats' and</u>, <del>The</del> <u>the</u> setting up of White Citizens' Councils.  <del>—Congress and the 'Dixiecrats'.</del></li> </ul>

### Subtopic 2

1. Subtopic changed from 'progress' to 'developments' because the latter is a more neutral term.

2. Old bp2 (*immediate and long-term significance of the case*) deleted, and 'significance' merged into bp1; this simplifies the consideration of the significance. In addition, 'reasons for' added because it is hard to make sense of this case without understanding what brought it about. This also makes explicit the links between Subtopic 2 and Subtopic 1 as these developments follow on from the position of Black Americans and the work of civil rights organisations.

3. 'reasons for' and 'key events' added to Little Rock to parallel the coverage of Brown v Topeka. The same rationale applies here.

### Subtopic 4

1. Bp3 deleted and the 'Dixiecrats' moved from bp3 into bp2 with 'including' to make the links clear.

2. Reference to 'Congress' [which had been in bp3] removed: Dixiecrats were in Congress, so students still need to know about the significance of opposition within the law-making body, but the rephrasing keeps the focus on opposition, and removing Congress emphasises that that students aren't expected to know the workings of the US constitution/legal system.

Key topic 2: Protest, progress and radicalism, 1960–75	
1 <b>Progress Developments, 1960–62</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significance of Greensboro and the sit-in movement.</li> <li><u>Reasons for, key events and significance of the</u> <del>The</del> Freedom Riders, <u>including</u> Ku Klux Klan violence and the Anniston bomb (1961).</li> <li>The James Meredith case (1962).</li> </ul>
2 <b>Peaceful protests and their impact, 1963–65</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King and the peace marches of 1963 in Birmingham, <del>Alabama,</del> and Washington. <del>Freedom Summer and the Mississippi murders.</del></li> <li><u>Freedom Summer and the Mississippi murders.</u></li> <li>The <u>impact of peaceful protest and</u> roles of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson <u>in</u> the passage of the Civil Rights Act (1964). <u>Selma and the Voting Rights Act (1965).</u></li> <li><del>Selma and the Voting Rights Act (1965).</del></li> </ul>
3 <b>Malcolm X and Black Power, 1963–70</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malcolm X, his beliefs, methods and involvement with the Black Muslims. His later change of attitude and assassination.</li> <li>Reasons for the emergence of Black Power. The significance of Stokely Carmichael and the 1968 Mexico Olympics.</li> <li>The methods and achievements of the Black Panther movement.</li> </ul>
4 <b>The civil rights movement, 1965–75</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The riots of 1965–67 and the Kerner Report (1968).</li> <li>King's campaign in the North. The assassination of Martin Luther King and its impact.</li> <li>The extent of progress in civil rights by 1975.</li> </ul>

### Subtopic 1

1. Subtopic 1 heading changed from 'progress' to 'developments' for same reason as Key Topic 1 Subtopic 2.
2. 'reasons for', 'key events' and 'significance' added to 'the Freedom riders' in bp2 to make explicit what students need to know about them; full stop replaced by 'including' to make explicit the link between KKK violence and the Freedom Riders.

### Subtopic 2

1. 'Alabama' removed from bp1 as it was clarifying the location of Birmingham but could give the impression of being a separate protest.
2. Freedom Summer and the Mississippi murders moved in a new standalone bp2.
3. In bp3 (formerly bp2), 'impact of peaceful protest' added to emphasise the links between protest and legislation.
4. 'and the passage of' changed to 'in the passage of' in relation to the Civil Rights Act - this makes clear that students don't need to know about details of how the Civil Rights Act was passed; the emphasis is on Kennedy and Johnson's roles.
5. Selma and the Voting Rights Act merged into bp3.

### Key topic 3: US involvement in the Vietnam War, 1954–75

<b>1 Reasons for US involvement in the conflict in Vietnam, 1954–63</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• The battle of Dien Bien Phu and the end of French rule in Vietnam</del></li> <li>• Reasons for greater US involvement under Eisenhower, including the domino theory and weaknesses of the Diem government.</li> <li>• Greater involvement under Kennedy, including the overthrow of Diem and the Strategic Hamlet Program.</li> </ul>
<b>2 Escalation of the conflict under Johnson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Reasons for the escalation of the conflict and increased US involvement in Vietnam, including</u> the <del>The</del> increasing threat of the Vietcong <u>and the</u> <del>The</del> Gulf of Tonkin incident (1964), <del>and increased US involvement in Vietnam.</del></li> </ul>
<b>3 The nature of the conflict in Vietnam, 1964–68</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guerrilla tactics used by the Vietcong.</li> <li>• The methods used by the USA, including Search and Destroy, Operation Rolling Thunder and chemical weapons.</li> <li>• The key features and significance of the Tet Offensive, 1968.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Changes under Nixon, 1969–73</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key features of Vietnamisation. Reasons for its failure.</li> <li>• The Nixon Doctrine and the withdrawal of US troops.</li> <li>• Attacks on Cambodia (1970) and Laos (1971), and the bombing of North Vietnam (1972).</li> </ul>

#### Subtopic 1

The Battle of Dien Bien Phu/end of French rule removed – this is already implicit within '*reasons for greater US involvement*', and since this depth study is focused on the USA, it is not required.

#### Subtopic 2

Bp1 and 2 merged into a single bp, and reorganised to provide greater clarity: '*increased US involvement*' moved to start and '*reasons for escalation of the conflict*' added.

### Key topic 4: Reactions to, and the end of, US involvement in Vietnam, 1964–75

<b>1 Opposition to the war</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for the growth of opposition, including the student movement, TV and media coverage of the war and the draft system.</li> <li>• Public reaction to the My Lai Massacre (1968). The trial of Lt. Calley.</li> <li>• The Kent State University shootings (1970).</li> </ul>
<b>2 Support for the war</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for support for the war, including the fear of communism.</li> <li>• The 'hard hats' and the 'silent majority'.</li> </ul>
<b>3 The peace process and end of the war</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for, and <u>key</u> features of, the peace negotiations (1972–73).</li> <li>• The significance of the Paris Peace Agreement (1973).</li> <li>• The economic and human costs of the war for the USA.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Reasons for the failure of the USA in Vietnam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strengths of North Vietnam, including the significance of Russian and Chinese support, Vietcong tactics and the Ho Chi Minh Trail.</li> <li>• The weaknesses of the US armed forces. The failure of US tactics.</li> <li>• The impact of opposition to the war in the USA.</li> </ul>

#### Subtopic 3

'key' added in bp1 to emphasise that students do not need to know the features in depth; they only need to know about the talks in outline.