Summer Work Tasks: Transition to A-Level History (AQA)

General Instructions

- Complete all tasks before the first A-Level lesson in September.
- Bring your notes and any written work with you.
- Buy a large lever arch file and dividers. Bring these to your first lesson.

Unit 1J: The British Empire, c1857–1967

1. Introductory Research: What Was the British Empire?

- Define the British Empire and list key territories controlled in 1857.
- Create a timeline of 20 key events in the Empire from **1857 to 1967**.
- Short written task (200–300 words): *"To what extent was the British Empire powerful in the period 1857 - 1967?"* Give at least two arguments for and two against, with examples.

2. Case Study Research: The Indian Rebellion of 1857

- Who were the main groups involved?
- What were the causes and consequences of the rebellion?
- How did this event change British attitudes to empire and rule in India?

Create a one-page summary, including:

- Key facts
- Timeline of key events
- Consequences for India and Britain

3. Source Skills and interpretations Task

Read the following fictional quote and answer:

"The Indian Mutiny was simply a breakdown of discipline amongst sepoys, and nothing more."
– British Army Officer, 1860

Question: How might a historian challenge this interpretation? (Write 250 words using your own knowledge and consider perspectives.)

Unit 2O: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–1945

1. Timeline Construction

Create a **detailed timeline** of events from **1918 (end of WWI)** to **1933 (Hitler becomes Chancellor)**. Include:

- Treaty of Versailles
- Spartacist and Kapp uprisings
- Hyperinflation crisis
- Stresemann era
- Rise of the Nazi Party

Use 15 key events. Add one sentence explaining the significance of each.

2. Key Term Glossary

Define the following terms (1–2 sentences each):

- Weimar Republic
- Article 48
- Freikorps
- SA (Sturmabteilung)
- Dawes Plan
- Reichstag
- Mein Kampf
- Enabling Act
- Night of the Long Knives

3. Interpretation Task

Read the statement and respond in 250 words:

"The Weimar Republic was doomed to fail from the start."

Do you agree? Consider political, economic, and social challenges.

Reading Suggestions (Optional but Recommended)

For Unit 1J (Empire):

- *Empire* by Niall Ferguson (chapters 1–3)
- BBC Bitesize – The British Empire overview
- Watch: BBC Empire series (Jeremy Paxman).

For Unit 2O (Germany):

- *Weimar and Nazi Germany* by John Hite & Chris Hinton (Access to History)
- Listen: History Extra podcast episodes on Hitler and Weimar