

# **Year 12: Britain 1851 – 1914 Transition Tasks**

The key thing about the Britain course that you will be starting in September is that it is split into 4 categories:

**Politics**

**Social Change**

**Economy**

**Britain's relationship with Ireland**

The next slide is a transitions task page that covers all 4 categories.  
Then complete the timeline task

## Politics 1851 – 1886

### Tasks:

1. Create a timeline of British Prime Ministers from 1851 – 1914. Make sure you include which party they represented!
2. Research three Acts (laws) that gave more people in Britain the vote. What are they called? When were they? Who got the vote?
3. Create profiles for the **Conservative**, **Liberal** and **Labour** Parties. Research their history here:  
Conservatives: <https://www.gosportconservatives.org/brief-history-conservative-party>  
Liberals: <https://www.libdems.org.uk/history>  
Labour: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/politics97/parties/palab.shtml>  
In your profiles explain: When were they strong and why? When were they weak and why?

## Social Change 1851 – 1914

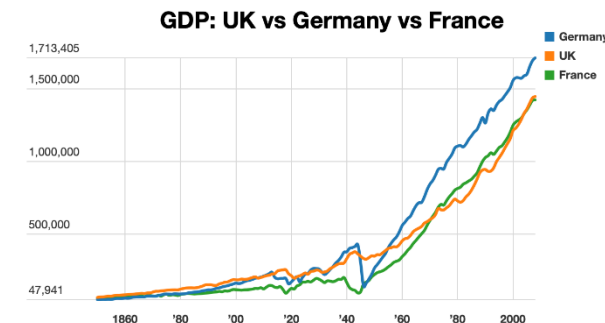
### Tasks:

1. What is a 'class system'?
2. Why might the government being 'laissez faire' be bad for social problems?
3. What is a Trade Union and why are they important?
4. Read this timeline of social reform: <https://victorianweb.org/history/socialism/chronology.html> (skip everything before 1851). As you read through, choose **five** social reforms that you think would have the most impact on improving life for the working class. Explain which you have chosen and why.

## The Economy 1851 - 1914

### Tasks:

1. Look at the graph. Write a paragraph to explain what you learn about it: a) state of British economy b) times of strength and weakness and why that might be. c) comparison to other countries.
2. Define the following: Tariff, Staple Industry, Agriculture, Laissez Faire, Natural Resources.
3. Why do you think that Britain having the largest empire in the world helped the economy?



## Ireland 1851 – 1914

### Tasks:

1. What is the difference between Protestants and Catholics?
2. Watch this documentary episode on Ireland. It is fantastic for getting an understanding of the Ireland section of our course and it is really well done: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbOD1fi8omw> **take notes as you watch.**

Politics 1851 – 1886	The Economy 1851 - 1914
Social Change 1851 – 1914	Ireland 1851 – 1914

Positive transformation

Challenge

1) Draw dots on the timeline to represent each card in the timeline

2) Highlight events as to do with a) Politics b) Social change c) Economy d) Ireland

1851		1964	
<b>1850s</b> A 'golden age' in British agriculture and exceptional industrial progress means that the British economy dominates the world.	<b>1868-1885:</b> William Gladstone is Prime Minister twice. As leader of the Liberals, he passes a series of social reforms such as the 1870 Forster's Education Act which improve the condition of the working class a little.	<b>1867 and 1884</b> Reform Acts are passed which increases the electorate to 2.5 million, then 5 million. Only men can vote.	<b>1886:</b> After attempting (and failing) to improve the condition of poor rural farmers in Ireland, Gladstone tries to pass a 'Home Rule Bill', to create a Parliament in Ireland to run Irish affairs. This fails, and Irish anger toward the British grows.
<b>1873-1896:</b> A period of 'depression' (seen by some as just a slowdown) in the British economy, caused by USA competing in the exports of wheat and lack of innovation in industry.	<b>1903-1914</b> The Suffragettes (Women's Social and Political Union) is created which asks for votes for women – their actions up to 1914 are not successful. Also, the Labour Party is created, representing the working classes.	<b>1906-1911</b> The Liberal Party introduces a range of innovative social reforms such as old age pensions and the National Insurance Act for health and unemployment. They also restrict the power of the unelected House of Lords.	<b>1912-1914</b> A Home Rule Bill is passed in Parliament (meaning Ireland will get a parliament in Dublin), but is delayed for 2 years by the House of Lords. Tension nearly sparks into civil war between Protestants in the North of Ireland vs Catholic Republicans in the South. WWI delays things further.
<b>1914-1918</b> Due to World War I the Liberals and Conservatives join together in a coalition government. This ultimately destroyed the Liberal Party, and partially led to the Representation of the People Act in 1918 which gave the vote to all men over the age of 21 and women over 30.	<b>1921-23</b> An Anglo-Irish Treaty is signed which creates the 'Irish Free State' in the south of Ireland, but the north stays part of Britain. This leads to a Civil War in the Irish Free State, which ends with the pro-treaty side winning.	<b>1931</b> The Great Depression hits Britain. Prices fell, unemployment rose steeply. The Labour government at the time collapsed.	<b>1919-1939</b> Women become more equal to men after WWI. There is an overall improvement in the health of the nation, and the government is responsible for building more houses for the growing population. There is more welfare support for unemployment.
<b>1949</b> Ireland declares itself an Independent Republic (completely separate from Britain). In Northern Ireland, divides between Catholics and Protestants grow.	<b>1945-1950s</b> A period of 'austerity' as Britain faces economic difficulties after the war. They borrow money from the US and introduce rationing, among other measures.	<b>1945</b> Labour wins a landslide election at the end of the war, and introduce a welfare state (including creating the NHS in 1948).	<b>1950s</b> Trust in politicians in the UK declines due to a series of scandals like the Suez Crisis. A long time of Conservative domination, though the Conservatives and the Labour party see a time of 'consensus' where they agree on many economic and social matters.

# Britain Reading List

University-level version of our A Level textbook, offers good summaries of our time periods and further detail. This is what I use to get more depth in the time period.



## Links

Victorians: Power and Politics: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/victorian/power-and-politics/>  
 Palmerston Biography: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/palmerston-viscount-henry-john-temple/>  
 John Russell Biography: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/russell-lord-john/>  
 Gladstone biography: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/gladstone-william-ewart/>  
 Palmerston/Russell era: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/the-age-of-russell-and-palmerston-1846-1868/>  
 Gladstone and Disraeli: <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Disraeli-Gladstone-Great-Rivalry-Debates/>  
 Gladstone Disraeli: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/victorians/disraeli\\_gladstone\\_01.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/victorians/disraeli_gladstone_01.shtml)  
 Reform Acts: <https://victorianweb.org/history/hist2.html>  
 Gladstonian Liberalism: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/gladstonian-liberalism/>  
 Gladstonian Liberalism: <https://encyclopedia.pub/entry/30590>  
 1867 Reform Act: <https://editions.covecollective.org/chronologies/reform-act-1867>  
 1884 Reform Act: <https://spartacus-educational.com/PR1884.htm>

Long Depression: <https://iea.org.uk/blog/lessons-from-the-%E2%80%98long-depression%E2%80%99>  
<https://www.thefield.co.uk/country-house/great-depression-british-agriculture-41371>

Land wars: <https://irishorigins.wordpress.com/2015/08/01/an-introduction-to-the-land-war-1879-1882/>  
 Home Rule movement: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/home\\_rule\\_movement\\_01.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/home_rule_movement_01.shtml)  
 Home Rule: <https://www.cairn.info/revue-etudes-anglaises-2018-3-page-259.htm?ref=doi>

Henry Campbell bannerman: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/campbell-bannerman-sir-henry/>  
 Lib Labs: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/lib-labs/>  
 Liberal Unionists: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/liberal-unionists/>  
 Lloyd George: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/lloyd-george-david-earl-lloyd-george-and-viscount-gwynedd/>  
 Chamberlain: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/chamberlain-joseph/>  
 Victorian socialism: <https://victorianweb.org/victorian/history/socialism/socialism.html>  
 House of Lords crisis: <https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/archivesandmanuscripts/2011/09/23/100-years-ago-constitutional-crisis-and-the-parliament-act-of-1911/>  
 House of Lords Crisis: <https://www.historyandpolicy.org/policy-papers/papers/the-1909-budget-and-the-destruction-of-the-unwritten-constitution>

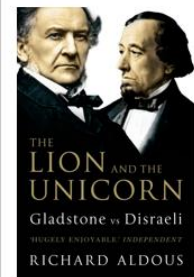
Economy Section 2: <https://worksinprogress.co/issue/the-decline-and-fall-of-britain/>

New unionism: [http://www.unionhistory.info/timeline/1880\\_1914.php](http://www.unionhistory.info/timeline/1880_1914.php)  
 Great Unrest: <https://jacobin.com/2023/06/britain-great-labor-revolt-working-class-power-strikes-direct-action>  
 Suffragettes: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/z7736v4>  
 Did suffragettes win women the vote: [https://www.johndclare.net/Women2\\_DidSuffragettesHelp.htm](https://www.johndclare.net/Women2_DidSuffragettesHelp.htm)  
 Liberal reforms: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdhk7ty/revision/1>

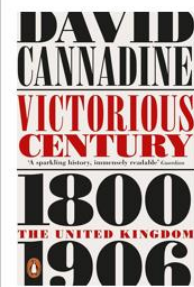
Home Rule: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdw97v4#ztj8mbk>  
 Home Rule: <https://www.cairn.info/revue-etudes-anglaises-2018-3-page-259.htm?ref=doi>  
 Ulster Covenant: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-ulster-covenant>  
 Home Rule: <https://www.gale.com/intl/essays/gerard-moran-irish-question-1800-1900-home-rule>  
 Home Rule Crisis: <https://liberalhistory.org.uk/history/the-home-rule-crisis/>  
 Sinn Fein: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/easterrising/profiles/po18.shtml>  
 Irish Citizen's Army: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/easterrising/profiles/po14.shtml>  
 Ulster Volunteer Force: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/easterrising/profiles/po20.shtml>  
 UVF Force or Farce: <https://www.historyireland.com/the-ulster-volunteers-1913-1914-force-or-farce/>

Liberal party 1906 to downfall: <https://journals.openedition.org/mimmoc/671>

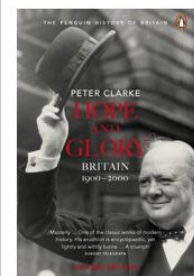
1916/1917: <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/home-rule-revolution-ireland-1916-17/>



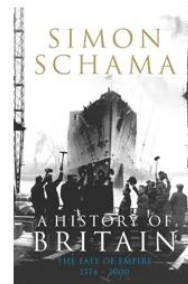
Dig into the rivalry between the big two political figures from Section 1!



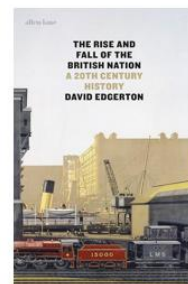
Starts a little early for our course, but the 1851-1906 years discuss a lot of the social and political changes.



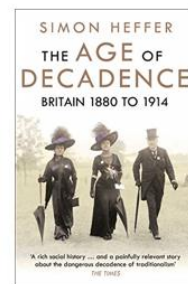
Discusses whether Britain was in decline in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – economy, social, politics!



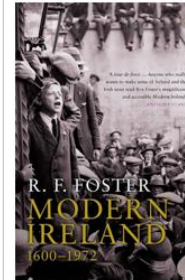
Obviously quite a big tome but Schama is great for wrapping your head around an entire time period – skip to 1851 on.



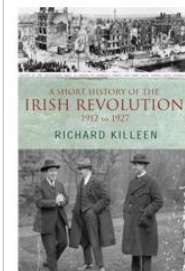
Economic & social rises and falls from 1900.



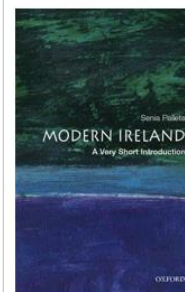
Introduces some of the key characters in our course (politics and social).



Widely regarded as one of the best accounts of modern Irish History – when reading, feel free to focus on the time periods of the course/major events we cover.



For a more detailed understanding of section 2 & 3 of our course, a turbulent time in Irish History.



A good discussion of the 'Irish question' over a 200 year period.