

1. Political situation in the 1920s

1	Which party was in charge?	1. The Republican party
2	What were the Republican policies?	1. Laissez-faire – the government shouldn't interfere with businesses 2. Isolationism – the USA should focus on themselves 3. Low taxes – allowed people to have more disposable income 4. Tariffs – taxes on imported goods pushed people to buy American goods

2. Why did America Experience a Boom?

1	Natural Resources	1. America had lots of natural resources like coal and iron. This meant they didn't need to import materials for production
2	Joining WWI late	1. The USA didn't join WWI until April 1917, so they didn't experience the same loss of men and resources that other countries did
3	Republican Policies	1. Republican policies benefited big businesses and allowed them to make as much money as possible – this fed into the US economy
4	The Stock Market	1. Businesses sold shares on the stock market, which gave them investment to grow 2. Ordinary people increased their wealth by buying and selling these shares
5	Mass Production	1. Henry Ford developed the assembly line to make his cars faster and cheaper 2. Other manufacturers adopted this method 3. It created jobs and encouraged more people to buy products as they were cheaper
5	Consumerism	1. Due to higher employment and lower taxes, more people had disposable income 2. Advertising and hire purchase encouraged everyone to buy the newest and latest products

3. How did popular culture change in the 1920s?

1	Why did culture change?	1. People had more freedoms and disposable income to spend on leisure activities
2	What new pastimes were there?	1. New crazes like mahjong, dances like the Charleston and even sitting on flag poles became popular
3	How did cinema change in the 1920s?	1. Cinema became increasingly popular 2. By 1929 100 million tickets were sold per week 3. Celebrities like Clara Bow and Rudolph Valentino became popular and people tried to copy their lifestyle 4. The Hays Code was a set of strict rules about what couldn't be in movies
4	How did radio and music change?	1. Due to mass production, the radio was more affordable 2. Sports got a bigger following as it was broadcast on the radio 3. By 1922, there were over 500 radio stations compared to 1 in 1921 4. Jazz became the most popular form of music. 5. Jazz was disapproved of by the older generation who thought it encouraged immoral behaviour
5	How did life change for women?	1. In 1920, women gained the right to vote in the US 2. This encouraged women to look for other freedoms in life. 3. Women began to dress and act more freely – they were called flappers
6	What was a flapper like?	1. They wore lots of make up and jewellery 2. They cut their hair short 3. They wore short skirts 4. They smoked and drank in public
7	Who disapproved of the flappers?	1. The older generations disapproved of the way the flappers lived 2. There was even an anti-flirt league set up to try to persuade women not to act in this new way

4. What was Prohibition?

1	What was Prohibition?	1. A ban on producing, selling, transporting or importing alcohol between 1920 and 1933.
2	Why was it introduced?	1. Concerns that alcohol was having a bad effect on the nation's morality and health. 2. Many religious organisations believed alcohol contributed to social problems. 3. People in rural areas worried that alcohol fuelled crime and violence in towns. 4. Many German immigrants brewed beer and were unpopular after WW1, so buying beer was seen as unpatriotic.
3	Why was it hard to enforce?	1. It was difficult to police – there were over 18,600 miles of coast for only 3000 Prohls to police 2. Many people wanted to continue drinking 3. Gangs were involved in running speakeasies and selling moonshine 4. Gangs were able to bribe police, agents, border guards and judges.

Key word	Definition
Assembly Line	A production line in a factory where goods are produced in large numbers
Buying on the Margin	A method of buying shares where an investor pays 10% of the share price and repays the rest with their profits
Constitution	The system of laws a country is governed by
Consumer Society	a society centred on buying the newest goods and services
Economic boom	A time when businesses are doing well, sales are high, wages are rising and unemployment is low
Flapper	Usually rich young women who shocked older women with their independent behaviour
Hire Purchase	A way of buying goods by paying in small instalments over a long time
Isolationism	The idea that America should not play an important role in European concerns
Jazz	Popular music style associated with the 1920s
Laissez-faire	A government policy of not getting involved in people's lives
Mass Production	The process of producing goods in large quantities, using machinery
Prohibition	When the production, sale and transporting of alcohol was banned
Republican	One of 2 major political parties in America; seen as more conservative
Share	A part of a business that is sold to get investment in the company
Speculation	Gambling on the stock market, often with borrowed money
Stock Market	Where stocks were bought and sold
Tariffs	A tax added onto the price of goods

5. Organised Crime & the success of Prohibition		
1	What was the role of organised crime?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gangs ran illegal bars called speakeasies and became very wealthy. 'Organised crime' was able to develop as gangs grew wealthy through fixing gambling events, racketeering and running brothels. Al Capone made \$10 million per year from racketeering
2	Did it work?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There were around 200,000 speakeasies in the USA. In New York the number of establishments selling alcohol actually rose during Prohibition. Deaths from alcohol rose from 98 to 8000 by 1926 Prohibition actually created a rise in crime through the growth in gangsters, organised crime and police corruption. Prohibition was unpopular
3	Why did some oppose it?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They argued that it threatened people's individual rights and encouraged disrespect for the law. They said re-legalisation of alcohol could create legal jobs within the brewing industry. The government could organise the sale and tax of alcohol, taking power out of the hands of criminals.

6. Immigration Tension		
1	Why did people move to America?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There were plenty of industrial jobs in America. Much of Europe was poor and life was hard and unfulfilling. American living standards were higher and wages were better. There were fewer obstacles for working-class people to improve their lives and many were attracted to the 'American Dream'. Some groups faced political or religious persecution in Europe.
2	What was the impact?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Large ethnic areas developed in cities, for example Little Italy in New York, as various groups from southern Europe moved in large numbers. Many immigrants were often resented as they were poor, did not speak English well, and had unfamiliar religious traditions (e.g. Jewish/Catholic). WWI made Americans more suspicious of foreigners, especially those with Russian links due to the Communist revolution of 1917 in Russia.
3	What was life like for immigrants?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some became very wealthy or successful by starting businesses. For many, working and living conditions remained very difficult. Many immigrants lacked education and would take any job available. This meant that many Americans felt immigrants were 'stealing' jobs.
4	How did the government limit immigration?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The 1917 Literacy Act banned immigrants over 16 who could not read a sentence of 40 words. The 1921 Immigration Quota Law limited the maximum number of new immigrants per year to 350,000. The 1924 National Origins Act allowed only 150,000 immigrants per year.

6. The Red Scare & Sacco and Vanzetti		
1	What was the Red Scare?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 1917, there was a Communist Revolution in Russia. Communism worried people because it contradicted American ideas of freedom and individual wealth. With many immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe arrived in, people feared communism gaining popularity in America.
2	How did the Red Scare affect the US?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In July 1919 a Communist suicide bomber attacked the house of US Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Later in 1919, an unidentified bomber blew up 30 people in New York. Communists were suspected. Palmer was in charge of the US legal and police systems. He vowed to get rid of Communists. Around 6000 suspected Communists in 33 cities were arrested during the 'Palmer Raids'. However, little evidence of Communist plots was found. This period of Communist paranoia became known as the 'Red Scare'
4	Who were Sacco and Vanzetti?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sacco and Vanzetti were Italian anarchists who were found guilty in May 1921 of robbing a shoe factory and killing two people in April 1920. There was no conclusive evidence, but they were found guilty and sentenced to death. Both spoke little English and it was claimed that they did not understand the charges. The judge said even if they had not committed that specific crime they were 'the enemy' and 'morally to blame'.
5	Why was their case so important?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported worldwide and there were huge protests against the verdict. Protestors said the men were innocent and had been found guilty because of their race and their politics. Despite this, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed by electric chair in August 1927.

7. Racial Tension		
1	What was life like for African Americans?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Black people in the South faced discrimination and segregation under the Jim Crow laws. They had to use separate restaurants, hotels, swimming pools and cemeteries as white people. Lots of effort was expended on stopping them voting. These laws also stopped inter-racial marriage Many judges, sheriffs and police supported the Jim Crow laws.
2	Why did they leave the South?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly 2 million African Americans left the southern states in the hope of a better life away from segregation/ By the 1920s the African American population of Chicago and New York had more than doubled since 1900
3	What was life like in the North?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They still experienced racism in the north – they were the last to be hired for particular jobs and the first to be fired. They occupied the worst housing in the worst areas of cities. Black workers were often underpaid or unable to get jobs in certain industries or workplaces. In 1919 there was a race riot in Chicago after an African American youth entered a 'whites-only' beach
4	What was the Black Renaissance?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Harlem in New York became famous as a centre for black poets, writers, artists and creativity White customers were attracted to these areas due to their vibrant and lively nightclubs and music venues. Some African Americans entered politics. WEB DuBois set up the NAACP in 1910, which worked to improve black rights
5	What was the KKK?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A white supremacist terror group founded in the 1860s by Southern Civil War veterans. By 1925, their popularity had reached 5 million. Most of their members were poor white people They felt African-Americans and immigrants were taking their jobs
5	What did they do?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They attacked and intimidated the people they believed to be inferior. Their tactics included whipping, kidnapping and lynching. They had many supporters in important places, like the police force and judges Their popularity decreased after a local Klan leader was found guilty of rape and murder. Within a year membership fell to 300,000

Key word	Definition
Bootlegger	People who smuggled alcohol in their boots into the USA
Jim Crow Laws	Laws that discriminated against black people and enforced segregation
KKK	A racist organisation popular in the 1920s
Lynch	To kill without a trial – usually by hanging
Melting Pot	A place where different peoples are mixed together.
Racism	Prejudice or discrimination against a racial group
Racketeering	An illegal activity in which gangsters demand payment from a businessman or shopkeeper in return for 'protection'
Segregate	To keep black and white people separate
White Supremacy	The belief that white people are better than other races