

1. Who was Saddam Hussein and what was his rule of Iraq like?		
1	Who was Saddam?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saddam came from a humble background and was a political activist from an early age. As a young man he murdered a prominent Iraqi Communist and spent time in exile in Egypt. He returned and rose to lead the Ba'ath Party through a mix of political cunning and violence. Saddam was executed by the Americans in 2003 for crimes against humanity.
2	What were the negative features of Saddam's rule?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saddam used the state intelligence system to spy on, jail and murder his opponents. Saddam tried to extend the Ba'ath Party into all areas of public life and personal control over the party, armed forces and government. Saddam persecuted minorities such as Iraq's Jewish and Kurdish populations and used chemical weapons against the Kurds. Saddam diverted a lot of Iraq's wealth to himself and his family, friends and supporters.
3	Were there any positive features of Saddam's rule?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saddam tried to promote people from humble backgrounds to create extra loyalty to himself, but many people saw him as a champion of ordinary people. Saddam tried to modernise Iraq and boosted science, engineering and technology in Iraq. Women had freedom and could get a good education and job. Saddam nationalised Iraq's oil so the money went into the country and not to oil companies.

2. What were the causes of the Iraq War?		
1	How did the West's relationship with Saddam deteriorate before 2001?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saddam's Iraq was initially a stable ally in the Middle East after 1979. Saddam was responsible for war crimes in 1984, 1988 and on other occasions. Saddam became increasingly aggressive towards other countries as Iraq's money began to run out. The West feared that Saddam's unreliability might disrupt the supply of Middle Eastern oil. Saddam's behaviour over Iraq's nuclear and military research programmes also caused a lot of concern. Despite victory in the Gulf War, the West still saw no real reason to try and remove Saddam from power in Iraq.
2	What was the impact of 9/11?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> During the 1990s, Saddam had become more vocal about Islam in order to gain support after the Gulf War. Although there was no obvious Iraqi involvement in 9/11, President Bush described Iraq as part of an 'Axis of Evil' in 2002. The USA became determined to root out all potential threats whether they were responsible for 9/11 or not.

3. How was the Iraq War justified in the USA and Britain?		
1	What did President Bush say publicly?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bush told the UN the aim was to "disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people". Once the existence of WMDs was proved unlikely Bush justified the war on the basis of Saddam's evils and bringing democracy to Iraq. Bush referred to the 'war on terror' as a 'crusade'.
2	What other reasons did the USA have to go to war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They feared Saddam would disrupt oil supplies from Iraq and the wider Middle East, as he could sell oil to fund his own activities. It was helpful for the USA to have a strong military presence in the Middle East to stop countries in the region funding terrorism. While there was no clear link between Saddam and 9/11 his regime definitely sought to encourage anti-Western terrorism. Some people claimed it was an attempt to prove that the USA was the world's supreme power.
3	What was Tony Blair's attitude to the war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Blair claimed that invading Iraq was the 'right thing to do' and that he had to support Bush's plans. He got Bush to go to the UN rather than taking action immediately, so that the war would be accepted by the international community. Blair knew that the Labour Party needed to prove to voters that it was not anti-American or weak on defence.

Key Word	Definitions
Al-Qaeda	The terrorist group led by Osama Bin Laden which was responsible for 9/11.
Ba'ath	The Iraqi political movement that Saddam Hussein joined and later led.
Gulf War	The 1991 conflict started by Saddam where he was defeated but held on to power.
Kurdish	A group of people living in Northern Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran who aim to set up their own state there.
Saddam Hussein	The leader of Iraq between 1979 and 2003, who was executed by the USA in 2006 for crimes against humanity.
WMDs	The acronym for 'weapons of mass destruction'.

4. How did attitudes to the Iraq War change over time?

1	What were attitudes in the USA like at the beginning of the war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In March 2003 almost 60% of Americans surveyed supported a UN-approved war, and around 50% supported a war regardless.. 2. Bush’s 2003 speech launching ‘Operation Iraqi Freedom’ was seen as highly persuasive and inspirational, especially as many Americans strongly believed Iraq played a part in 9/11. 3. During the war, support remained high despite concerns about deaths, terrorism or a military draft.
2	How did attitudes in the USA change over time?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By late 2004 newspapers began to adopt less positive coverage and some even apologised for initially supporting the invasion. 2. Incidents in the war such as the discovery that there were probably no WMDs, Saddam’s execution, or the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, badly rocked many people’s faith in the war. Many people criticised Bush’s handling of the war and protested troop deployments. 3. President Obama’s decision in 2011 to withdraw US troops from Iraq was popular, but also showed the US had failed in Iraq.
3	How did British attitudes to the war change over time?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In March 2003 54% of British people surveyed supported the war. 2. In exactly the same way as US opinions, events during the war involving British troops began to sway opinions against the war. By 2009 many people felt the war was not right and Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced the Chilcot Inquiry into Britain’s role in the war. 3. The Chilcot findings were released in 2016 and gave a “damning” verdict on the war, saying that no peaceful option had been sought, huge intelligence errors were made in deciding to go to war, and it also heavily implied that Blair lied to Parliament and the public to seek support for the war. Many figures all across public life openly said they considered the war illegal and illegitimate.
4	What were other attitudes to the war like?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many countries in Europe (especially France and Germany) opposed the war and were suspicious of the US role in it. 2. The Arab world was strongly against the war with up to 95% opposition in some countries. 3. Iraqis themselves generally supported the removal of Saddam but lost faith in the war as the country slipped into chaos. 4. Many nations worldwide believe that the Iraq War and the removal of Saddam has made the world less safe.

5. What was the significance of the Iraq War?

1	What was the human cost?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Up to 600,000 people overall were killed as a result of the invasion of Iraq including at least 300,000 deaths directly due to violence. 2. Around 2 million people fled Iraq and became refugees. 3. Child health, welfare and living standards in Iraq dropped hugely, and crime rose enormously. 4. Many of Iraq’s most significant cities were almost completely destroyed. 5. Coalition forces (the vast majority US troops) suffered around 40,000 casualties including 4,000 killed.
2	What was the financial cost?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is predicted that the war overall may cost the USA up to \$6trillion once fully paid off. 2. This includes the direct cost of the war, payments due to casualties and their families, the cost of re-building Iraq and possibly even future reparations to Iraq.
3	What was the political cost?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The USA and its allies were generally seen as the aggressors in Iraq and have been criticised worldwide. 2. The idea of Western governments interfering abroad has become a much more contentious topic. 3. Iraq and the Middle East became more chaotic and terrorist groups including ISIS began to attract support and grow in power.

Key Word Definitions

Abu Ghraib	A prison in Baghdad where Iraqis were mistreated by US troops.
Chilcot	The name of the public inquiry 2009-2016 into Britain’s role in the Iraq War.
Coalition	The term for a loose alliance of troops who fight on the same side but are not part of the same army.
ISIS	A hardline Islamic terrorist group who gained influence in the Middle East after the removal of Saddam and decline of Al-Qaeda.
Operation Iraqi Freedom	The name given to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.
War on Terror	The general term for the change in policy that led to US interventions in Iraq and later Afghanistan.
9/11	The 2001 terrorist attack in the USA that started the ‘War on Terror’.