Dunfermline High School Modern Studies Department

Our learning
Our future
Our responsibility

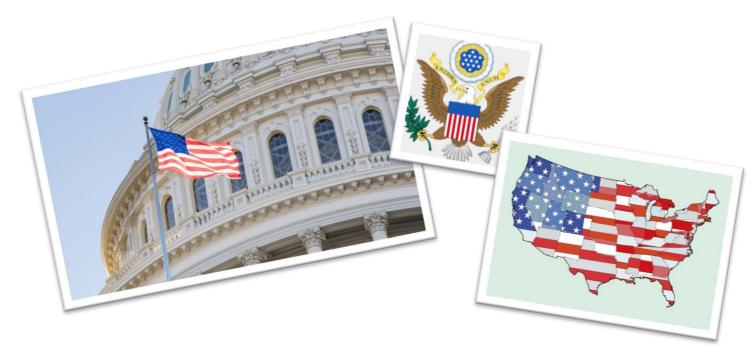












SQA National 4&5
Section Three | Option One: World Power
United States of America
Pupil Booklet

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Unit Specification

Adapted from https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ModernStudiesCourseSpecN5.pdf

Section 3: International Issues - Option 1: World Power (United States of America)

Political system

- political system
- participation
- representation

Influence on other countries

- political influence
- economic influence
- military influence

Social and economic issues

A *minimum of three issues* should be studied. At least one issue covered should be a social issue and one an economic issue.

- employment
- poverty/inequality
- population movement
- health
- education
- crime and the law

Effectiveness in tackling social and economic issues

A *minimum of three issues* should be studied. At least one issue covered should be a social issue and one an economic issue.

- employment
- poverty/inequality
- population movement
- health
- education
- crime and the law

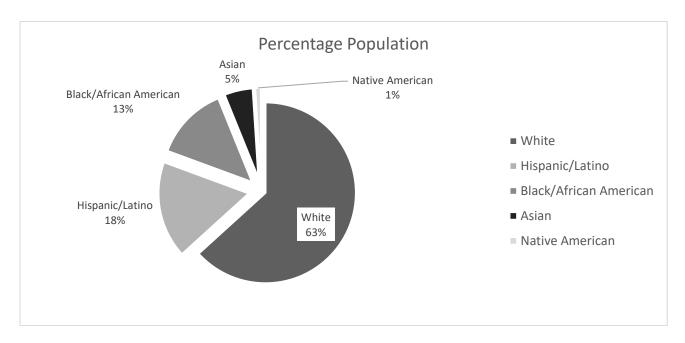
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An Introduction to the United States of America

The USA is the third largest country in the world, with a population of around 327 Million. The ethnic composition of the USA is sometimes described as a 'melting pot' which describes the diverse mix of cultures, ethnicities and languages present in the country. The United States has 50 states – the last state to join was Hawaii which joined on 21st August 1959.

Heading: Introduction to the United States of America

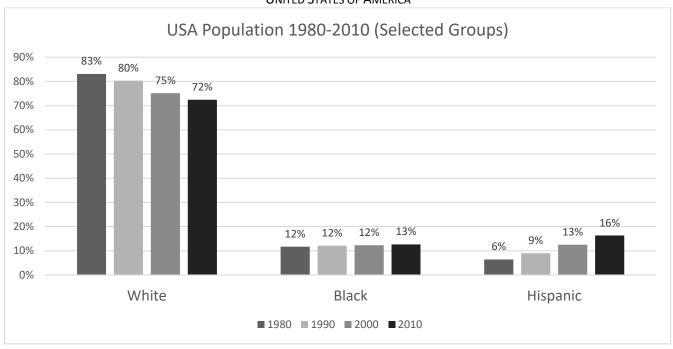
1. Stick in, correctly colour and label the following chart which represents the proportion of ethnic groups in the USA.



2. Stick in the map of the USA and correctly label each of the states.



- 3. Describe, in detail, the ethnic demographics of the USA. Make **three** points and use statistics to back up your answer.
- 4. How many states are there in the USA?



5. Using the graph above of selected ethnic groups, which group is experiencing the fastest growth?



6. Above are pictures of four famous Americans. Can you identify who they are, and which ethnic group they belong to?

4. Barack Obama, Black	3. Lucy Liu, Asian	2. Eva Longoria, Hispanic	1. Donald Trump, White
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Answers

The USA: A Melting Pot, a Salad Bowl or a Mosaic?

The United States is a multicultural society. Millions of people would consider themselves 'American,' some born in the USA and some who were not. The USA is sometimes described as a 'melting pot' or a 'salad bowl' as there are many ethnic groups which make up the country.



Melting Pot

Imagine a cup of coffee. The ingredients: hot water, coffee grounds, milk and sugar are stirred together to make a tasty drink. Once mixed, you cannot identify any of the individual components – they are one cup of coffee.

In this analogy, people who move to the USA who may be ethnically diverse lose their identity and take on a new 'American' identity.

Salad Bowl

Now think of a salad. Each of the ingredients is added: lettuce, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, dressing; and is mixed together. You are able to easily identify the different ingredients, and pick out individual ingredients, but they do all together form the result. Some people believe that American society is a bit like this. All of the different ethnic groups retain their individual identities but together make up American society as a whole.





Mosaic

Another way to consider American society is to think of it like a mosaic. From far away, the individually different tiles make on large image. However, look closer, and you can make out the individual tiles. Tiles cannot easily be removed, however, as the final result would be spoiled.

In the same way, together, each person in America retains their unique identity, but, together, they make up the United States.

Heading: Defining the Ethnic Make-up of the USA.

- 1. Describe each of the above analogies in your own words.
- 2. Which analogy do you think is the best one to describe the USA today? Give reasons to support your choice. You should also state why you did not choose the other options.

Political System

Describe, in detail, the political system of the world power you have studied.

The Constitution

The United States of America has a written constitution which is a set of rules on how the government should be run – it is said to be the *supreme law* of the USA. The constitution was signed by the founding fathers on 17th September 1787.



"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Since it was written, the constitution has been amended (added to or changed) a number of times. The first amendments, added in 1791, were intended to protect individual rights and freedoms and are known as the **Bill of Rights.**

The constitution outlines that power is divided between the national (federal) government and individual states.



Examples from the Bill of Rights

1st Amendment: freedom of religion, speech and the press, and the right to peaceful assembly

2nd Amendment: the right to bear arms (guns)

5th Amendment: the right to remain silent

6th Amendment: the right to public trial by jury

8th Amendment: freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

When the founding fathers were writing the constitution, they wanted to make sure that the federal government was not too powerful, and so split government powers between the federal government and the states. The federal government reserves power over national issues, and states have power over everything else. Some examples of federal and state powers can be seen below:

Federal	State	
Taxes	Education	
Currency/Printing Money	Death Penalty	
Postal System	Marriage Age	
Military	Driving Age	

Heading: Introduction to the USA Constitution

- 1. What is a constitution?
- 2. When was the constitution signed?
- 3. What are the first amendments more commonly called?
- 4. Which government (federal or state) would make decisions about:
 - a. Increasing income tax?
 - b. Abolishing the death penalty?
 - c. Taking the country to war?

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Separation of Powers

The USA constitution also sets out that the various governmental powers be separated into three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. These terms appear difficult at first, but they are easier when you describe what they are.



In the US system, no one branch can impose its will – all branches must agree on issues. This is called **checks and balances** – each branch checks up on the work of the others. This is supposed to ensure that no one branch is too powerful – it can, however, mean that making decisions is difficult as all branches need to agree.

US Government Shutdown 2019

At the start of 2019, conflict between the President and his party the Republicans, and the opposition party Democrats forced a government shutdown.

Donald Trump and the Republicans wanted funding for a border wall between the USA and Mexico; but the Democrats refused to pass the bill. Because of this, no money was released to government departments, so many government offices had to shut down.

that hundreds of thousands of government workers have not been paid in months (at the time of booklet printing.)

This government shutdown is not unique to Donald Trump, other presidents have also experienced this problem. But Trump's shutdown has been longer than any other president.

What is a government shutdown?

When the legislative branch and the executive branch can't agree to pass the budget, the government has to shut down. This doesn't happen very often, but when it does, it causes a significant amount of disruption.

A government shutdown does not mean that the *entire* government closes. Some mandatory programmes like the military and social security are considered very important and continue to operate.

However, many 'non-essential' government departments have to shut down. So, for example, the Department for Homeland Security remains operational – so border guards will stay working; but most workers at Inland Revenue (tax office) and the Environmental Protection Agency have been sent home without pay. This means

Longest government shutdowns

Source: New York Times

How can US Citizens Participate in Politics? Voting and Standing as a Candidate

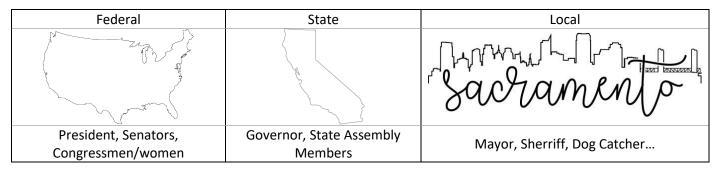
Explain, in detail, the ways in which citizens of the world power you have studied can participate in politics.

Explain, in detail, why some groups in the world power you have studied are more/less likely to participate than others.

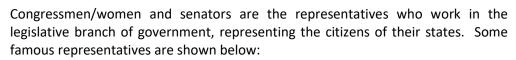
The United States of America, like Scotland, is a democracy – which means citizens have the right to participate in making decisions about how their country is run. However, the methods that US citizens can participate in are different in some cases to that of Scotland and the UK.



US citizens can vote for a number of representatives at federal, state and local level.



In November 2016, Donald J Trump was elected as the USA's 45th President. His presidential term lasts for 4 years which means that the next Presidential election will take place in 2020. If elected again, Trump may only serve another 4 years (8 years in total.)







Nancy Pelosi
Congresswoman
Democrat - California



Elizabeth Warren
Senator
Democrat - Massachusetts



Mitch McConnell Senator Republican - Kentucky



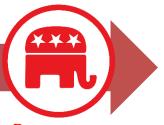
Liz Cheney Congresswoman Republican - Wyoming

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Join and Campaign for a Political Party

In the USA there are two main political parties: the Democrats and Republicans.





REPUBLICANS

(also known as Good Old Party – GOP)

Higher taxes on wealthy people to pay for public services.

Improve public schools and hospitals.

Individuals should look after themselves.

The government should not interfere with the lives of citizens.

Low taxes for all (people keep their money to spend on private schools, private healthcare etc.)

Citizens can join parties and campaign on their behalf. This means that they promote the party to try and win over voters. They can do this in many ways:



Protesting

Just like citizens in Scotland, citizens in the USA can protest for and against government decisions they support and oppose.

Protests, especially large ones, are very effective at grabbing the public's attention because they get significant media coverage. They also put pressure on representatives as people become aware of issues around the country.



March For Our Lives

March For Our Lives was a student led protest/movement in support of laws to prevent gun violence in the USA. The main event was in Washington DC, with 880 related events taking place across the USA and the rest of the world.

The event was organised by *Never Again MSD*, a group of students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida following a school shooting that took place in their school in February 2018, killing 17 students and staff. They also used the hashtags #NeverAgain and #EnoughIsEnough. One of their campaign methods was to organise mass 'die-ins' in which students would lie down together to highlight the issue of school shootings in the USA.





Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter is a movement that campaigns against institutionalised violence and discrimination of black people, especially from police officers. The movement began with the use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter after security officer George Zimmerman was acquitted of the shooting of the African American teenager Trayvon Martin in 2012.



FERGUSON UNREST: FROM SHOOTING TO NATIONWIDE PROTESTS (10 AUG 2015)

The city of Ferguson, Missouri, has been a flashpoint for nationwide protests since the killing of an unarmed black teenager by a white police officer last year.

Protests in Ferguson followed Michael Brown's death and a grand jury declining to charge the officer with murder. A justice department investigation has also found widespread alleged racial bias in the police force.

Ferguson's police force has faced severe criticism since the shooting of Michael Brown in August 2014, leading to the sacking or resignation of several officials, including police chief Thomas Jackson.

Initially, the demonstrations focused on Ferguson but in November they spread to other US cities after a jury decided not to charge police officer Darren Wilson over the killing.

Mr Wilson is white. Mr Brown was black. The demonstrators see the case in terms of racism and police brutality.

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Joining Interest Groups

An interest group is a group of people who believe similar things – often about a single issue. Interest groups in the USA use many methods to promote their cause, such as protesting, writing

petitions, starting campaigns and lobbying representatives.

One of the most famous interest groups is the National Rifle Association (the NRA) whose purpose is to support Americans' 2nd Amendment right to bear arms (own guns.)

The 2nd Amendment is a

one of the most controversial in the USA. The 2nd Amendment was implemented originally to secure states against the federal government becoming too powerful - to enable states to fight back! Now, of course, many things have changed: it is a ludicrous idea that states might have to 'fight against' a tyrannical government as the USA is one of the strongest democracies in the world. As well, gun technology has vastly improved – when the amendment was made 1791, automatic

Key Word

lobbyists.

Lobbying: the act of trying to

influence representatives to

change or make laws. People

employed to do this are called

assault rifles (that can kill hundreds of people a minute) were not in existence. Mass shootings were simply not possible in 1791.

Some people argue that as guns have changed - so should gun laws, to prevent mass shootings and the many accidental deaths that happen each year in the USA. However, the NRA and many thousands of Americans disagree, and hold on to their 2nd Amendment right very strongly. The NRA have very effectively defended the 2nd Amendment in recent years by lobbying representatives. There has been little shift in gun regulation in the USA despite numerous gun tragedies.



Speech made by President Barack Obama following **Sandy Hook Elementary Shooting**

16 December 2012

Since I've been President, this is the fourth time we have come together to comfort a grieving community torn apart by a mass shooting. The fourth time we've hugged survivors. The fourth time we've consoled the families of victims. And in between, there have been an endless series of deadly shootings across the country, almost daily reports of victims, many of them children, in small towns and big cities all across America — victims whose — much of the time, their only fault was being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

We can't tolerate this anymore. These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change.

Speech made by President Donald Trump following **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting** 15 February 2018

Yesterday, as school filled with innocent children and caring teachers became the scene of terrible violence, hatred and evil. Our entire nation with one heavy heart is praying for the victims and their families. To every parent, teacher and child who is hurting so badly, we are here for you, whatever you need, whatever we can do, to ease your pain. No child, no teacher should ever be in danger in an American school. No parent should ever have to fear for their sons and daughters when they kiss them goodbye in the morning. Each person who was stolen from us yesterday had a full life ahead of them, a life filled with wondrous beauty and unlimited potential and promise.

We are committed to working with state and local leaders to help secure our schools and tackle the difficult issue of mental health.

Presidents Obama and Trump clearly have a different view on gun control. Obama, a Democrat, campaigned for tighter gun control during his time in office. Trump, in comparison, did not blame guns for the tragedy, and rather said more needed to be done to tackle mental health issues.

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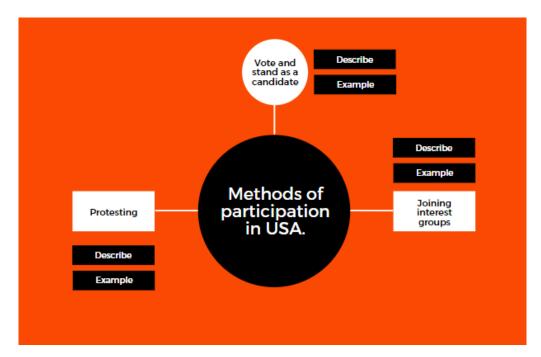
How can American citizens influence decision making?

Using the sources on pages 8 - 11, you should create a detailed mind map in your jotter on methods that American citizens. You should use a colour code to categorise your points, explanations and examples. Remember, for N5 knowledge questions, you should be providing between 2-3 developed paragraphs with examples for each.

Personalisation and Choice

You can choose to collate information to answer this question in one of the following ways:

1. Create a detailed, colour coded mind map which describes each method with examples.



- 2. Write three paragraphs **describing** each method and giving at least one **example** for each.
- 3. Create a quiz with at least six questions to test the knowledge of another pupil. You should also create an answer guide to go with it.
- Create an SQA marking instruction for the following question: describe, in detail, ways
 in which citizens in the USA can influence politics. (8)
 In your marking instruction, you should include examples of 1-mark, 2-mark and 3mark paragraphs.





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Participation: Internet Research Activity

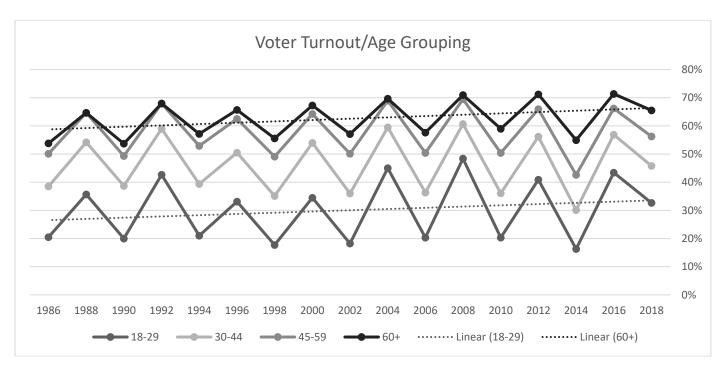
In your jotter, you should copy out the following table and include the answers using an internet search engine.

Voting and Standing as a Candidate in an Election		
Which political party won control of the Senate In 2018 Midterm Elections:		
Which political party won control of the House of Representatives in 2018 Midterm Elections:		
How many millions of Americans voted in the 2018 Midterm Elections:		
Name at least three Republicans that have declared their intention to run for President in 2020:		
Name at least three Democrats that have declared their intention to run for President in 2020:		
Protesting and Joining Interest	Groups	
Name an issue that Americans have protested over in 2018/2019:		
Name any methods used by Americans when they protested:		
Give an example of the work of the National Rifle Association in 2018 or 2019:		

Which groups are more/less likely to participate?

Describe, in detail, a group/groups that are *less* likely to participate than others. Explain, in detail, reasons why some groups are *more* likely to participate than others.

Age and Participation



Voters who are older are consistently more likely to turnout to vote. Although the turnout of all voters has increased since 1986, about 30% less of young voters turn out than older people. One reason that the turnout amongst younger voters may have increased is because there has been growing anger about school shootings and the government's lack of action¹. Younger voters may urge their peers to vote to change the government's thinking.



"Whenever young people are surveyed, there is a significant lack of knowledge about how exactly the government works, and, therefore, how their vote actually matters," said Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, the director of CIRCLE, an initiative at Tufts University that studies youth civic and political participation. She recently conducted a survey of working-class youth, and found that nearly 20 percent of young people said they don't think they know enough to be able to vote.

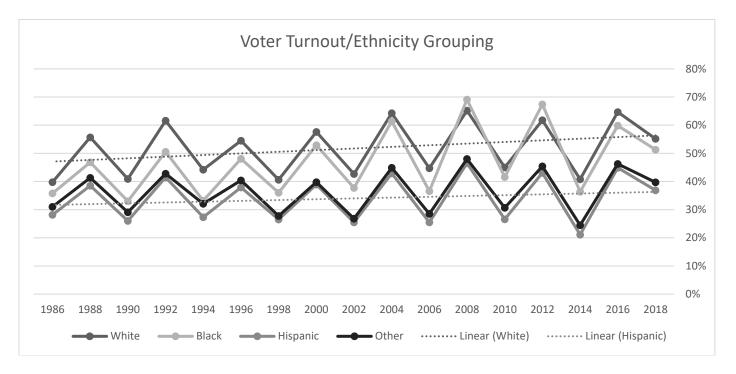
Her research has found that a majority of young people don't think voting is an effective way to change society. They also have major misconceptions about voting. Some think getting a citation for driving under the influence meant they could no longer vote.

Heading: Age and Voting Turnout

- 1. What conclusions can be drawn about the relationship between voting turnout and age? You should make two conclusions and back them up with evidence.
- 2. Describe, in detail, the trend in voter turnout in the US since 1986.
- 3. Give one reason why youth turnout has increased in recent years.
- 4. Give one reason why youth turnout is lower than older people.

¹https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-youth/young-u-s-voter-turnout-surges-but-challenges-linger-idUSKCN1N710K

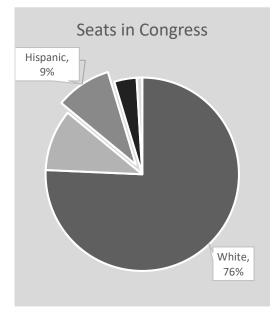
Ethnicity and Participation



This graph shows that white Americans are usually more likely to vote and Hispanics are much less likely to vote.

However, there is an anomaly with the turnout rate in 2008 and 2012. In both these years, Barack Obama was the presidential candidate. Obama was the first ever African-American president of the USA. In both these years, there is clear evidence which shows that Obama was a role model for black Americans which made them turnout in higher numbers to vote. Backing this up – in 2016, Donald Trump (a white male) ran against Hillary Clinton (a white female) and in this year, the turnout rate for white Americans returned to be higher than that of black Americans.





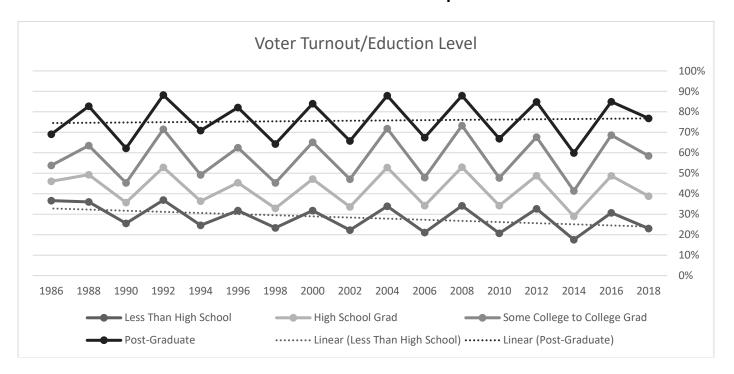
This graph shows that only 9% of seats in congress are held by Hispanic members. Again this highlights the link between ethnic minority role models and turnout in elections.

In each case, the role models are predominantly white and the turnout figure for white people is higher in most cases.

Heading: Ethnicity and Participation

- 1. What conclusions can be drawn about the link between ethnicity and turnout? Use evidence from the graph to support your answer.
- 2. Why were black Americans more likely to turn out than white people in 2008 and 2012?
- 3. What reason is given for the turnout of white Americans increasing in 2016?
- 4. Why might Hispanic voters be less likely to turn out and vote?

Education Level and Participation



The relationship between education level and turnout is very clear – as education level increases, so does the likelihood that someone will vote. This graph shows that the turnout rate amongst people who did not complete high school is around 30%; and the turnout rate for those with post-graduate degrees is around 85% (for presidential elections.)



One reason for this may be that those with a lower education level may find registration and voting process difficult. In the USA, voter registration is not automatic – voters have to fill in forms to apply to vote. In addition, registration methods are different in every state and so a first time voter has to research how to register.

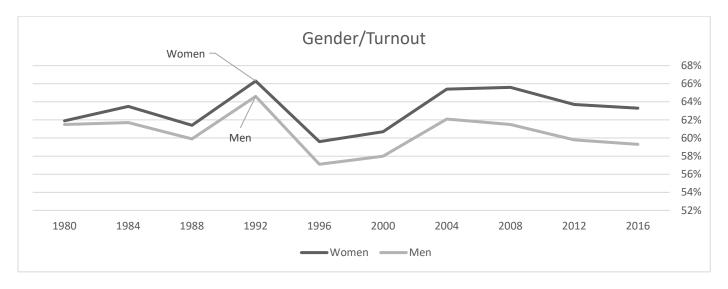
A further argument is that education increases someone's general interest in and knowledge of politics – and so someone who has completed more education is able to better understand how to engage with the political process.

Heading: Education Level and Participation

- 1. What conclusions can be made about the link between education level and turnout? Use evidence to support your answer.
- 2. Give two reasons why someone who has a lower education level may be less likely to vote.

Gender and Participation

One group which is more likely to vote are females. Women of all ethnic groups (apart from Asian/Pacific Islander) vote in higher proportions to men.



One reason for this could be that women are using their vote to fight hard for improved rights and equality. Women have fought for many years to increase their voice and ability to participate in politics and this appears to continue today. Women are still discriminated against in US society due to sexism, and voting may be one way to improve women's positions.

BBC

US GROUPS SUE ALABAMA OVER 'EXTREME' ABORTION BAN

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Planned Parenthood, an abortion and healthcare provider, have sued Alabama over its ban on abortion.

The groups called the "extreme" law a "manmade public health emergency".

The ban, which offers no exceptions for rape or incest, was signed last week but has not taken effect.

Under Alabama's new ban, physicians who provide abortions could go to jail for up to 99 years, but a woman seeking the procedure would not be criminally liable.

The law allows exceptions only if the mother's life is seriously at risk or the foetus has a fatal complication.

Heading: Women's Participation

- 1. Describe, in detail, the turnout rate of US females in recent elections.
- 2. Explain one reason why women may be more likely to vote.
- 3. Copy and complete the following PEE paragraph:
- P One group which is more likely to participate by voting in elections are women because they want to protect their rights and increase equality.
- E Women consistently vote in higher numbers than men. Women have fought hard for their right to vote and for equality over many years however, they still remain unequal through the gender pay gap and strict abortion laws. Some women may feel that voting is a good way to fight inequality.
- E For example...

Influence on other Countries Introduction to Influence

The United States of America is a very influential country for many reasons. The three areas this section will look at are: political, economic and military influence.

What makes a country influential?

Many factors make a country more or less influential. If a country has a lot of influence, it has the ability to make other countries change the way they work in some way — preventing or causing wars, changing the way products are made or sold and changing government policies for example.

Key Word

Influence: the capacity to change or affect the behaviour of someone or something.

Heading: Influence on other countries

1. Look at the images of factors which make a country more influential and labels below. Using the handout given to you, neatly stick in the images to your jotter and match the labels to them.













A large economy

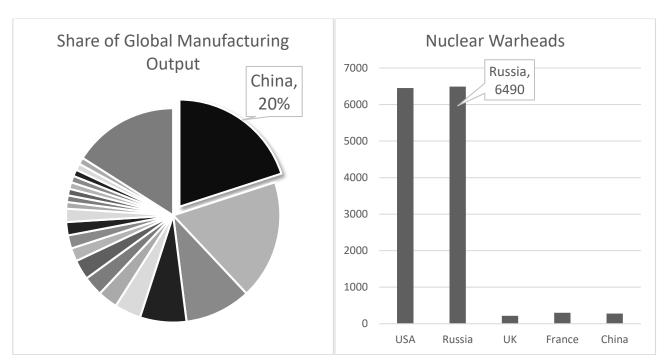
A large military

Nuclear Weapons

Being a member of international organisations

Tourism

2. Look at the following case studies and identify why the country is influential. You should make a conclusion about each country and use evidence from the graphs.



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Economic Influence of the USA

Describe, **in detail,** the **economic** influence of the world power you have studied has on other countries.

Explain, in detail, how the world power you have studied can influence other countries economically.

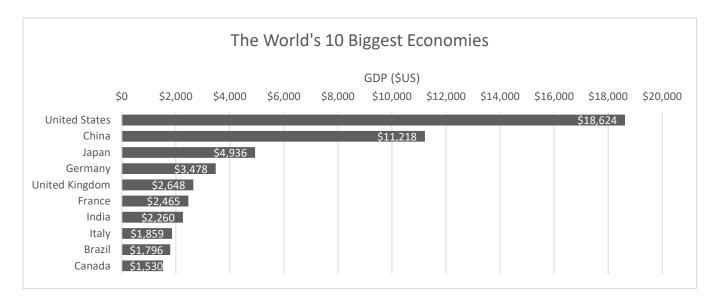
The USA is the world's largest economy. This means that the USA's economy has a profound impact on the economies of countries around the world. When the American economy is doing well, the rest of the world will likely see a positive impact with an increase in trade and tourism. If, however, the USA's economy performs poorly, then this may result in job losses and a slowing of global tourism.

"When the USA sneezes, the world catches a cold."



1. Using the graph below, what conclusion can be made about the economy of the USA in comparison to other countries?





Factfile on USA's influence on Scotland



Source: VisitScotland 2016 Source: US Embassy Source: gov.scot

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2. Using the information on the previous page, copy in and complete the following PEE describe paragraphs.

Describe, in detail, the economic influence of the world power you have studied has on other countries.

- P One way that the USA has an economic influence on other countries is because many countries rely on tourism from the USA.
- E The USA is a very wealthy country which means Americans have a better ability than some people to travel abroad. Many Americans can trace their ancestry to Scotland, enjoy Scottish sports like golf or like Scottish products like whisky. Tourism benefits Scotland because tourists spend money on accommodation, food and entertainment.
- E For example...
- P Another way that the USA has an economic influence is because countries rely on the USA for trade to and from their country.
- E Both the wealth of the USA and the number of people who live there means that it is an attractive place to sell products. Scotland relies on countries like the USA to buy products we make here so that we can support jobs and businesses here.
- E For example...
- P A final reason that the USA has an economic influence on other countries is because US companies create jobs around the world.
- E Some of the largest companies, such as Microsoft, Apple, Uber and Amazon are from the USA. These companies have offices around the world which employ many people, contributing to the economies of the countries they operate in.
- E For example...

The difference between describe and explain...

At N5 level, knowledge questions come in the form of either describe in detail or explain in detail. The structure of these answers is largely similar, and the information contained in the answer will be similar too. However, it is important to read the question carefully and answer the question asked.

School Uniform

Describe	Explain	
School uniform <u>is</u> a school tie, white shirt and black trousers.	I wear school uniform <u>because</u> it is the school rule.	
Report details of the situation	Give reasons for/what is the effect	
"The graph shows a decrease from 25% to 12% over 5	"The number has fallen from 25% to 12% because"	

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Political Influence



Describe, **in detail**, the **political** influence of the world power you have studied has on other countries.

Explain, **in detail**, how the world power you have studied can influence other countries **politically**.

Politics in the USA are not confined to its borders – decisions made by US politicians can have far reaching consequences for people and countries around the world. The USA is so politically powerful that they can influence world leaders to act in certain ways and even global peace.

Case Study 1: Climate Change

President Obama was key to getting world powers like China and India to sign up to the Paris Climate Agreement to help try and prevent climate change.

Once elected, Donald Trump announced to the world in 2016 that is he going to pull the USA out of the deal.

This was done because many of his supporters don't believe in climate change. Many experts now believe, that the efforts to keep a few million of his voters happy, will mean that global warming is now inevitable.

Case Study 2: Help for Women

Many in the Republican party and those who are supporters of Donald Trump are against abortion.

After coming to power Donald Trump stopped any financial support being given to charities that 'provide or support abortion' around the world.

Several major global health organizations, such as Marie Stopes International, said that this rule has caused many clinics in underserved areas to shut down.

This shows how the politics of the US can have an impact on women's control over their reproductive systems around the world.

Case Study 3: Palestinian Protests

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is one of the world's most complicated problems. The peoples of these two lands have been locked in dispute for decades both claiming the city of Jerusalem as their capital. Most countries have kept their embassy in Tel Aviv to remain neutral.

Many of Donald Trump's supporters are strong allies of Israel in the dispute and in 2018 Donald Trump moved the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. This resulted in the deaths of over 50 people at protests the move.

The Guardian

Trump takes war on abortion worldwide as policy cuts off funds

Sexual health organisations warn women will die if they are forced to seek DIY abortions

The Trump administration has taken its war on abortion worldwide, cutting off all funding to any overseas organisation or clinic that will not agree to a complete ban on even discussing it.

The Mexico City policy, dubbed the "global gag" by its critics, denies US federal funds to any organisation involved in providing abortion services overseas or counselling women about them. It was instituted by the then US president Ronald Reagan and has been revoked by every Democrat and reinstated by every Republican president since.

Sexual health organisations have said women will die as a consequence as they pursue dangerous DIY solutions or "back street" abortions instead.

1. Using the evidence above, copy and complete the following PEE explain paragraphs.

Explain, in detail, how the world power you have studied can influence other countries politically.

- P One way that the USA can have a political influence on other countries is that global warming is going to get worse due to its political decisions.
- E As the USA produces many goods, and consumes energy and products, it produces many of the greenhouse gasses that cause climate change. This means that changes it makes to its supply chain can have a big impact on global emissions.
- For example, president Obama used his power to persuade polluters like China and India to sign up to the Paris Agreement to help prevent climate change. President Trump, however, undid this by pulling out of the agreement. Scientists believe that this decision will mean global warming is now inevitable.
- P Another way that the USA has political influence is that women's right are now infringed around the world due to the USA's decision to stop funding women's health programmes.
- E The USA provides a significant amount of aid to help needy people around the world. When Republican President Donald Trump took power in 2016, he pledged that health services which support or provide abortion around the world would no longer receive financial support.
- E For example...
- P The US also demonstrated political influence in the case of the Israel-Palestine conflict when Trump decided to move the US embassy to Jerusalem.
- E This conflict is one of the world's most complicated conflicts. Many world powers have kept their embassies in Tel Aviv to remain neutral, however, as many of Trump's supporters back Israel, the decision was made to move the embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.
- E For example...

Militaristic Influence

Describe, **in detail**, the ways the world power you have studied can have a **military** influence on other countries.

Explain, in detail, how the world power you have studied can influence other countries militaristically.

The United States has one of the largest and most well-funded militaries in the world. It is the largest spender on weapons and equipment – and has the world's largest navy and air force. This means that they can use their militaristic power to protect itself and its allies around the world from threats and attacks, and also deter other countries from attacking them. For example, if North Korea were to attack South Korea, the USA would step in and support South Korea.

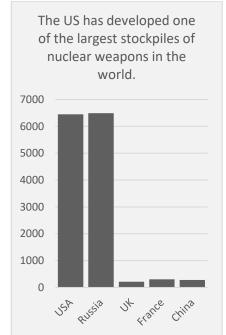
USA Military and Defence Factfile

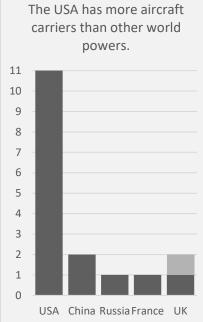
- No country since Japan in WW2 has declared war on the USA.
- The USA has 10,000 more aircraft in its military than its nearest rival Russia, which has 4,000 aircraft.
- The USA represents 36x of all military spending in the world. Nearly 3 x more than China.

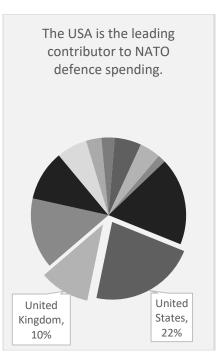












Defense News

US AIR FORCE BUILDS IN RUSSIA'S BACKYARD

The Trump administration wants to spend \$828 million in 2019 to build up military infrastructure in Europe as part of an ongoing initiative to deter Russian aggression and reinforce allies. Almost half of that construction funding would go toward U.S. Air Force projects.

The idea is that if Russia invaded a European nation — for example, Latvia — the U.S. Air Force would be able to quickly respond, supported by basic airfields to reload, refuel and repair damage.

1. Using the evidence above, copy and complete the following PEE explain paragraphs.

Describe, **in detail**, the ways the world power you have studied can have a **military** influence on other countries.

- P One way that the USA is very influential is through its large military which deter other countries from attacking the US.
- E The USA has one of the largest and most well-funded militaries in the world meaning that it has the equipment and weapons to respond quickly to any threat. This deters other countries from attacking the USA as they know that the consequence to this will be severe retaliation.
- E For example, the USA has more aircraft carriers than any other country (12 in comparison to the UK's planned 2) which means they can station US fighter jets around the world to respond to an attack. Since WW2, no country has attempted to attack the USA.
- P The USA has military bases all over the world to support allies in the case of attack.
- E These bases ensure a rapid response to any threat, for example, Russia, who have recently invaded and annexed Ukraine.
- E For example...
- P The USA is also effective at convincing other countries' militaries to support their efforts.
- E The USA is the major funder of the military alliance NATO, whose members all maintain militaries. In the event of a conflict, the USA could call upon these countries to support the USA's effort. For example, the UK is a member of NATO and would likely support the USA.
- E For example...

Social and Economic Issues & Responses

Describe, in detail, the ways in which a group/groups suffer social and economic inequality. Explain, in detail, the effectiveness of government responses to social and economic inequality.

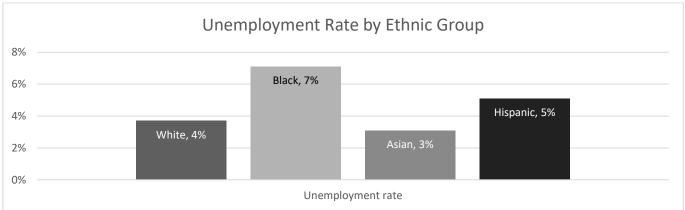
Health

Healthcare in the USA is very different to the UK. In the UK, every citizen has access to free healthcare through the NHS, but in the USA, citizens have to pay for their healthcare – and it can be very expensive!

In the USA, the majority of people have private medical insurance. This means that they pay a regular fee to a private company and, if they get sick, the company will pay for their care. 58% of people receive their health insurance though their employer. Companies like BlueCross and BlueShield are some of the largest health insurance companies. Just like car and house insurance, these companies provide different levels of cover. Cheaper cover will cost less per month, but will also pay for less medical procedures. Due to this, poorer Americans are more likely to have poorer health and a lower life expectancy.







The graph above show that black people have the highest rate of unemployment in the USA, and also have the lowest life expectancy. This demonstrates that those who are out of work are likely to have poorer health, and this may be because they have lower access to quality health insurance.

Hispanics have the highest life expectancy (not white people!) The causes of this are still debated, however, studies have shown that there is a lower tradition of smoking amongst Hispanic people², especially older people; which may be the reason for this difference.

Heading: Health Inequalities

- 1. What conclusion can be drawn about the life expectancy of various ethnic groups in the USA?
- 2. What conclusions can be drawn about the impact of unemployment on life expectancy?
- 3. What reason can be given for a lower life expectancy amongst black Americans?
- 4. What reason can be given for a higher life expectancy amongst Hispanic Americans?

² https://www.prb.org/us-hispanics-life-expectancy/

Response to Health Inequalities

In 2010, there were 49.9 Million uninsured Americans, which was 16.3% of the population. It is further estimated that over a quarter of Americans earning under \$25,000 were uninsured. The US government has three programmes which help people without health insurance to get medical care:



Mostly for people over the age of 65 and administered by the federal government.

Eligibility:

• Be over the age of 65



Mostly for people on low incomes including children, pregnant women and disabled people. It is administered by states.

Eligibility (New York example):

• Family of 4, yearly income limit \$35,535.



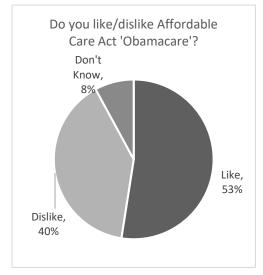
For children who do not qualify for Medicaid. Income cap (4 person family): \$103,000.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Often referred to as Obamacare, the act was passed to give Americans better health security by putting in place comprehensive health insurance reforms that:

- expand coverage
- hold insurance companies accountable
- lower health care costs
- guarantee more choice
- enhance the quality of care for all Americans

3



Heading: Responses to Health Inequality

- 1. For each of the programmes detailed above describe each programme in your own words.
- 2. What was the purpose of Obamacare?
- 3. What is the public's opinion of Obamacare?

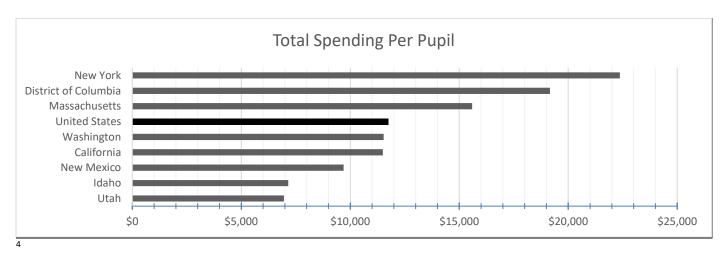
³ https://www.kff.org/health-reform/poll-finding/6-charts-about-public-opinion-on-the-affordable-care-act/ Dunfermline High School

Education

Like healthcare in the USA, education is very different to Scotland and the UK. In Scotland, it doesn't matter where you live in the country – whether it is a large city like Glasgow or a small island like Orkney Islands – the amount of money spent per pupil, the quality of teachers, class sizes and resources are very similar. In the USA, school funding differs based on location, so students in schools across the country receive different qualities of education.



The funds that schools receive in the USA come partially from federal government (8%) and the rest is a combination of state and locally funded. This means that in local areas which are wealthy, school funding is also higher as more money is collected in local taxes. Similarly, in areas of poverty, less local tax is collected and so there is less money for schools.



This graph shows that the gap between some states is very large. Utah pays the least per student, \$6,953 – and New York spends over three times this at \$22,366!

The Guardian

I WORK AT ONE OF AMERICA'S UNDERFUNDED SCHOOLS. IT'S FALLING APART.

In my Oklahoma high school classroom, it is not easy to tell where federal funding ends and state funding begins – in fact, most teachers don't have a clue about where our funding comes from. But what is abundantly clear is that our schools need more funding.

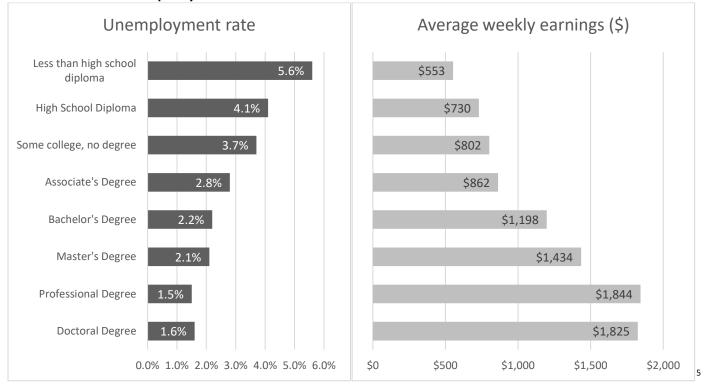
Our classes are extremely overcrowded, with 30 and 40 students per class. Some of us don't even have enough desks for our students to sit in. Coach Aaron McVay, one of our PE teachers, has had classes of more than 80 students. How much learning happens in a class of 80? Some teachers don't even have classrooms. They keep their belongings, textbooks and supplies on carts and push them from classroom to classroom, hour to hour.

None of the teachers I asked could remember the last time we adopted new textbooks. Our current history textbook, The Story of Oklahoma, is so old that the Oklahoma City bombing only gets a couple of pages in the epilogue.

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⁴ https://www.governing.com/gov-data/education-data/state-education-spending-per-pupil-data.html

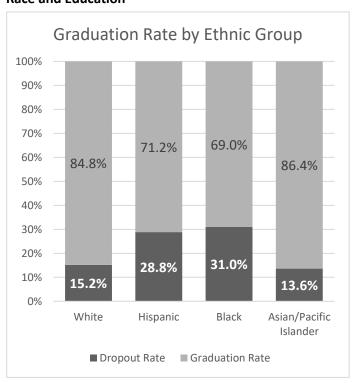
What difference does a quality education make?



This graph clearly shows that those with a higher level of education are more likely to have higher earnings and also a lower unemployment rate. This shows how important a good quality education can improve someone's life chances – and how a poor one can decrease life chances.

- 1. Give one reason why school funding differs between different local areas. Use a statistic to support your answer.
- 2. What evidence is there that underfunding causes poorer education standards? Write **two** things.
- 3. What is the relationship between educational attainment, unemployment and earnings?

Race and Education



This graph shows that black Americans are most likely to drop out of high school. Nearly one in every three black people drop out of high school before receiving their diploma. That's 10 in a class of 30!

Hispanic people follow closely behind at around 29% dropout rate.

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are most likely to graduate high school.

- 4. Which ethnic group is most likely to graduate high school?
- 5. Which ethnic group has the highest high school dropout rate?

⁵ https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm Dunfermline High School

Immigration/Population Movement

"The American Dream"

The American Dream is the concept that any American, whatever their background, can succeed through hard work. America is said to be a 'meritocracy' – the harder you work, the more you will succeed.

The American system of capitalism encourages people to work hard by rewarding people with high wages and therefore high qualities of life.

Key Word

Meritocracy: success based on talent, hard work, intelligence, achievement (rather than based on heraldic or wealth factors.)

Many immigrants have travelled to the USA in search of a better life – the promise that if they work hard and contribute to American society, they will be well rewarded. Some of the reasons that people emigrate from their home country and immigrate to the US are listed below:

Push Factors

Dictatorship
Unemployment
Poor healthcare
Poverty
Lack of housing
Little/no educational opportunities
War



Pull Factors Democracy

Freedom of speech
Wealth
Education
Healthcare
Jobs
Capitalism



Natural disaster

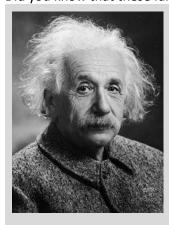
For centuries, the USA has been an attractive destination for immigrants seeking a better future for themselves and their families. Did you know that the Statue of Liberty in New York was a gift from France? It symbolises the freedom and liberty of America. The statue holds a torch aloft in one hand, symbolising future enlightenment. She holds a tablet in the other



hand, representing law. She is also walking forward, breaking free from a chain on her foot, symbolising freedom. This is the first sight immigrants travelling to the USA from Europe by boat would see as they entered into New York Harbour.

Immigration has had a largely positive impact on the USA. Some of the most intelligent and ambitious people in the USA were immigrants. Although immigrants are spread across all levels of employment, they often take on low-paying jobs, such as food service and cleaning, which many American workers do not find attractive.

Did you know that these famous Americans were immigrants?



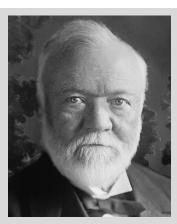
Albert Einstein Scientist



Sergey Brin Founder of Google



Arnold Schwarzenegger Actor/Politician



Andrew Carnegie Philanthropist

Illegal Immigration to the USA

There is a problem with illegal immigration where people have made their way illegally to the USA or have overstayed their visas. This has become a key political issue in the USA!

Most illegal immigrants to the USA come from countries such as Mexico (estimated 5.9 million), other South American countries and Asia. Most illegal immigrants live in the US close to the Mexican border.

There is estimated to be 11 million illegal immigrants in the USA. This is down from 12 million in 2007.

Overall immigration to the USA has become a big issue in American Politics. Many white Americans feel that as the US has become more diverse that their way of life has changed.

Also with there being fewer well paid jobs for uneducated people in the USA it has become easy for politicians to blame immigrants for lower wages because they are seen as a source of cheap labour.

Donald Trump tapped into this feeling in his election when he campaigned against illegal immigration in the 2016 Presidential election.

In fact research finds that illegal immigrants have a crime rate of 3% compared to 6% of US citizens.



Heading: Illegal Immigration to the USA

- 1. Copy and complete this PEE paragraph:
- P One socio-economic issue in the USA is illegal immigration.
- E Many immigrants to the USA are legally allowed to stay and work in the country. There is a problem, however, with people who have travelled illegally to the USA and who work undocumented. This means that they may not pay tax, and may take on jobs which pay lower wages. As well, many white Americans fear that their way of life is changing. Donald Trump effectively tapped into this fear during the 2016 election when one of his policies was to 'Build a Wall' between the USA and Mexico.

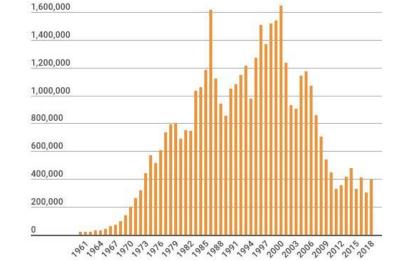
1,800,000

E For example... (where to Mexican illegal immigrants stay? How many?)

The graph on the right shows that the number of illegal immigrants crossing over the border has fallen steadily in recent years. In fact, in 2015, 44% of illegal immigrants were 'visa over stayers' meaning that they entered the USA legally, and then stayed longer than their legally allowed time (eg. 90 days.) These people will have entered via train, plane or at a border checkpoint.

2. Do you think building a wall will solve the illegal immigration problem?

Total Southwest Border Apprehensions



Dunfermline High School 31 of 36

450,000

400,000 350,000

300,000

250,000

200,000 150,000 100,000

50,000

0

ICE

The USA has set up the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency also known as ICE. organisation has the task of detaining and removing illegal immigrants.

3. What conclusions can be drawn about the success of ICE in removing illegal immigrants in recent years?

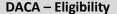


"The Dreamers" are a group of illegal immigrants who were brought to the USA as children illegally. For many of them the USA is the only country that they know.

Congress failed to pass The Dream Act that would have

allowed them to stay and become citizens. In 2012 Obama issued an executive order setting up a programme called DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

This allowed for Dreamers to apply to stay as well as be able to access education and other services. Most Americans support this policy and it is seen as being highly beneficial though Donald Trump has said that the programme will end in 2018. Some in congress are trying to help save the programme.



- Under 35
- Arrived illegally before 16
- Been in USA for 5 years
- Completed High School/ Served in the Military
- No Criminal Records

Effectiveness (How Dreamers have benefited)

- 69% increase in wages
- 54% have a better job based on training

ICE Removals

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

■ ICF Removals

- 56% have better working conditions
- 91% are employed
- 16% purchased 1st home

Why is this good?

Turns Dreamers into legal immigrants and massively benefits the US economy from increased tax revenues and reduced government spending finding, detaining and deporting illegal immigrants. Some, however, argue that this is rewarding people who have broken the law – even if children.

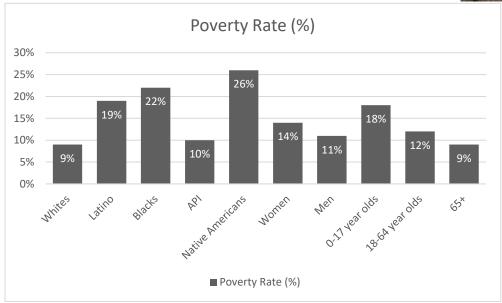
Conv and complete this PFF paragraph.

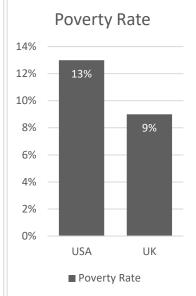
	+. Copy and complete this FLL paragraph.
Р	One response to illegal immigration is DACA, which was designed to offer legal status to illegal immigrants
	brought to the USA as children.
Ε	Children brought to the US illegally are called ''. To be eligible for DACA, they must have been
	brought to the USA before age, completed high school or They must also have no
	·
Ε	The programme has been relatively successful as this turns 'Dreamers' into legal citizens and benefits the
	economy by
	This has led to (comment on effectiveness)

Poverty

The USA has a major problem with Poverty. Despite being the world's richest country it has a poverty rate of almost 13% (40.6 million people). This is compared to the UK rate of around 7% (4.6 million people).







1. In your jotter, copy and complete the following table:

What conclusions can you make about: (back up with evidence)				
Race and Poverty	Age and Poverty	Poverty in the USA compared to the UK		

Response to Poverty

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNAP as it is known provides low- or no-income Americans with support to purchase food. US citizens who receive this benefit are given a debit card that has on average \$125 a month for each person in that household to buy food. They can use this in pre-approved stores.

Success of SNAP

- It reaches 44 million Americans (1 in 7) a year suggesting it is helping a lot of Americans in need.
- For every \$1 spent on food stamps \$1.70 in created in economic growth meaning that the money spent is helping other parts of the economy such as creating jobs in supermarkets

Criticisms of SNAP

- It doesn't cover all the grocery costs generally only 1/3rd of what people need for food a month.
- The US still has one of the highest levels of poverty in the world despite the program running for over 50 years suggesting more is needed to be done to tackle poverty.

Heading: Response to Poverty

- 1. Which group of Americans does SNAP help?
- 2. What kind of help does SNAP provide?
- 3. "SNAP is an effective response to poverty." What evidence is there to **support** and **oppose** this statement?

Extension:

Create a leaflet which informs Americans about the benefits of SNAP. It should:

- Explain the programme
- Eligibility
- Convince the reader that the programme is effective





Gun Crime in the USA

The USA has an almost unique relationship with guns compared to almost any other developed country in the world. There are almost as many guns in the USA as there are people.

Causes of the issue

The 2nd amendment of the US constitution declared that Americans have the right to bear arms to defend themselves. This was put in place in case the British ever tried to take back the USA. Because it is very hard to change the US constitution the rule is still there. There have been many attempts to challenge this right and change the laws to make rules stricter but the Supreme Court has struck these down.

The Issue

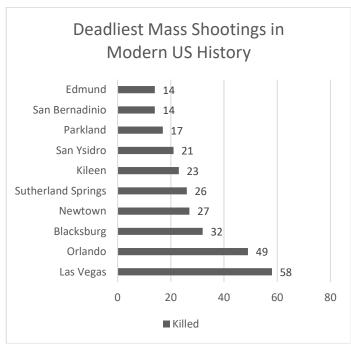
The problem in the USA is that with this almost unique obsession with firearms has come an equally unique problem of mass shootings. No other developed country has the same problem of mass shootings and it appears to be getting worse.

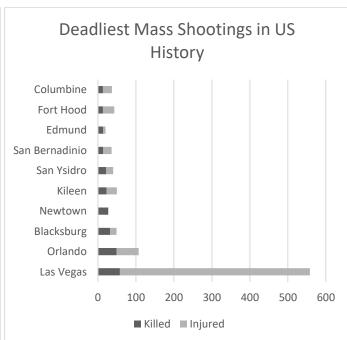
Mass Shootings in Schools

Research from the University of Alabama has found that also unique in the US is that most of these mass shootings happen in either the work place or a school. Around the world most mass shootings happen near military bases. In the US this is not the case, it accounts for 62% of the world's shootings in a workplace or school.

The research suggests that the stress of workplace and school environments lead shooters to seek "revenge" on the system they feel has failed them.

The author, Lankford believes that workplaces and schools are sites of more public mass shootings due to "the social pressure to achieve the American Dream but a lack of means to do so,"





Heading: Mass Shootings in the USA

- 1. What conclusions can be drawn about the number of mass shootings in recent years and the deadliest in history.
- 2. Explain the reason Lankford gives for deadly school mass shootings.
- 3. Research activity:

Choose a mass shooting in the USA				
Where?	What?	Who?	When?	Why?

Responses to Gun Crime

Deadlock & Prayers

Because of the division of power in the USA between the three branches of government it has become almost impossible for the government to respond to the growing social problem of mass shootings in schools.

One problem is that it says in the constitution that US citizens have the right to bear arms. It is difficult for Congress and the President to produce and sign a law that won't be struck down by the Supreme Court.

Another problem is that often Congress, and the President don't agree on what should be done to address the problem and unless they both do then nothing can happen.

Depending the political party someone is in indicates how likely it is that you would be in favour or against more gun control.

When Barack Obama was president he pleaded, in tears, with congress to bring in more gun control. He was a democrat, but congress was controlled by republicans meaning they were not in favour of any changes. Many republicans get financial support from the National Rifle Association which they need to get elected. They are worried about losing support from the NRA and the voters who are against gun control.

After the terrible mass shootings in Las Vegas and Florida (two of the worst) have happened while Donald Trump is president. He is a republican who has been supported by the NRA. Congress from 2016-2018 is controlled by the republicans and even if the Democrats took control of Congress it is unlikely Donald Trump would sign any law for greater gun control.

Activity 11

The Trace is an organisation that works to gather reliable data on gun related crime in the USA. Look at their website that visualises the response of the congress.

Congress is the key body that needs to act to change any laws that might increase gun control efforts.

Things you should pay attention to are

- The difference in response between the two main parties
- The words used by both sides
- Try using some of these words in the last section (9/9)
- Gun
- Control
- Rights
- Restrict
- Assault
- Protect
- Ban
- Change
- God
- Bullet







