**70 things for 70 years**

**Take a chance to create some history, not just learn about it.**

By taking part in the Historical Association’s 70 things for 70 years project you and your school have a chance to create the list of what items help to illustrate the last 70 years.

**Secondary schools**

To get involved with the 70 things for 70 years project we have suggested some activities and questions that might help to get a discussion started or some research initiated.

Students can be set the work in class or as homework.

The following questions can be used in History lessons, tutor time, RE and Citizenship.

With some careful thinking they can be included to support existing areas of the curriculum and in some cases could be used to demonstrate understanding of the past when writing up the argument ready for submission to the HA.

**Suggested questions**

Themes:

**Empire and Commonwealth:**

When the Queen first ascended the throne, The British Empire still existed, although it was in a process of being challenged and forced to change.

* Is there are an item or person that could demonstrate either the change from Empire to Commonwealth or the independence movement of one of the specific countries of the empire?
* Is there an item or person that tells the story of the independence movement of the British colonial possession in Africa?
* Is there an item or person that helps to sum up the current relationship that Britain has with Commonwealth countries?

Explain why you have chosen any of these examples.

**Equality:**

* Having a female monarch has coincided with many advancements of the women’s movement in the last 70 years. Is there an item that could represent those changes in the treatment of women or the process of achieving the changes? Is there anything that tells the story of how those changes have not progressed?
* Equality and race relations were not widely understood or protected ideas in Britain at the start of the 1950’s – today we have lots of legislation around these ideas but what thing or item might tell us about the history of those changes in attitudes and the campaigns that have pushed for change?
* What are the central ideas about attitudes to different people that have developed over the last 70 years and are they worth remembering when we talk about the Queen’s reign?
* The traditional roles of men and women has changed over the last 70 years what items might indicate what life was like for men and women in each of the last seven decades?
* Terms around gender and what is ‘the norm’ have changed and been challenged recently – how could you represent those discussions and ideas?

**Communications:**

* When the Queen was contacted about the fact that her father had died and she was now the Queen she was contacted by telegram. Today people rarely send telegrams but what item would tell the story of human communication over the last 70 years?
* To what degree is technology a promotor or a mis informer about information? How would you represent those arguments through a symbol?

**Daily life**

* Each decade of the Queen’s reign has seen changes to our daily lives e.g. commuter journeys, fashion, education, household gadgets, leisure activities and hobbies. How might these changes and others be described through specific people or items?
* How do you get to school? Is it the same way that your parents travelled to school; if not why has that changed and how would you tell someone about those changes?
* The Queen’s reign started not long after the end of rationing. Has the food that we eat changed over the last 70 years – how?

**Politics**

* In 1952 the Cold War was just getting started and political thinkers would discuss capitalist versus Communist politically led nations. How have political ideas, changed or developed and help us to reflect on the events of the last 70 years?
* Have the political structures of the UK changed or remained the same during the last 70 years?
* What are the key moments in British politics in the last 70 years?
* Many international structures have been created or developed over the last 70 years what difference have they made to the UK’s history?

**Events**

* Are there key events of the last 70 years that are pivotal, remarkable, catastrophic, revolutionary and or transformative that can tell us something about the British, European and global experience of the last 70 years and how would you represent them? E.g. Covid-19, Falklands War, first female PM, 9/11
* Do some events/actions sum up the last 70 years more than others – why?
* What are the positive events that have occurred that have affected your life and the wider community?