**Summer IS – History: The Middle East**

**Use the scanned sheets available,** which provide an overview of the events outlined below, **to make notes on the areas listed**. There is also a reading list which provides more in-depth discussion and analysis.

Remember that you are going to decide on a topic to write about which covers most of the 100 year period (1914-2014) and will need some in depth understanding and analysis of the area you will be investigating. At the foot of this homework is a list of possible topics you might want to structure your coursework question around.

1. **Jewish claim to Palestine**

* Outline a history of the persecution which the Jewish people have had to endure up to 1917.
* Note what the Promised Land is, what anti-Semitism is and what Zionism means
* What was the Balfour Declaration and why was it so important? **Include some of your own research on this topic**

1. **The Arab claim to Palestine**

* Produce a history of the Arabs in Palestine
* Why was the First World War so important to the Arabs? Explain what the McMahon letters were and why they were important. **Include some of your own research on this topic.**
* Explain what the Sykes Picot Agreement was and again **include some of our own research on this topic**

1. **British rule in Palestine**

* Consider the impact the British had on Palestine e.g. impact of Jewish immigration and the importance of this for the Arabs. Reasons for Jewish immigration and the problems it caused. In the 1920s and the 1930s
* The Arab Rebellion of 1936-39 and how the Jews responded (Haganah)
* Britain’s Partition Plan (Peel Commission) and the reasons for it.

1. **The Birth of Israel**

* The impact of Jewish terrorism – include specific examples
* The Holocaust and the importance of this on the Jewish cause
* Britain’s response to Jewish terrorism and immigration after WWII
* The United Nations Partition Plan – what did it recommend and what was the immediate impact on the Arabs and the Jews?

1. **The War of 1948-49**

* How did the Arabs state respond to the state of Israel being established?
* Why did the Israelis win this war?
* What was the impact of the war on the Palestinian Arabs?
* How did Israel manage to survive following this war?

1. **The Suez Crisis of 1956**

* Why was the Suez Canal so important?
* Who was Nasser and what did he want for Egypt?
* Why did Nasser nationalise (take over) the Suez Canal from Britain and France?
* How did Britain and France respond to Nasser’s actions?
* Why were Britain, Israel and France not successful with their invasion of Egypt?
* What was the impact of the Suez crisis on: Nasser and Egypt, the Arab states and Russia?

**Bibliography: (This is just the tip of the ice berg – some you can buy second hand)**

* **The Middle East 1908-2011 Michael Scott-Bauman (Access to History) – this is an A Level text book and if you are going to buy only one book I suggest that this is the book you acquire.**
* C D Smith: Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. This book includes 40 primary sources. You are going to have to select some sources for your piece of course work. This is written for undergraduates.
* James Barr: has two books. A Line in the Sand about the British/French rivalry in the Middle East. Lords of the Desert is about the British/American rivalry in the Middle East.
* Martin Gilbert: Israel: A History. A well respected historian who has a good grasp of the topic and has produced a lot of literature on the Holocaust.
* Bregman and J. el-Tahri: The Fifty Years War: Israel and the Arabs. This book accompanied the BBC television series and is a good overview of the conflict with photos
* **Shalaim A: The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World. A very good, even handed book of the conflict. Worth looking out for. A lot in this – but entirely readable and provides a clear history of the Middle East. Probably the best book on the Middle Eastern conflict to date for our purposes**
* David Gilmour: Dispossessed. The ordeal of the Palestinians. Quite one sided and written in the 1980s. Looks at the development of the PLO and studies the issue from a Palestinian perspective
* T G Fraser: The Arab-Israeli Conflict. A focus on the origins of the conflict and the 4 main Arab-Israeli wars
* Robert Fisk. The Great War for Civilisation: the Conquest of the Middle East. A very substantial book by a British journalist who has lived in the Lebanon for years. Brings the issue beyond ‘9/11’. It is a really good read, but a hefty book.