

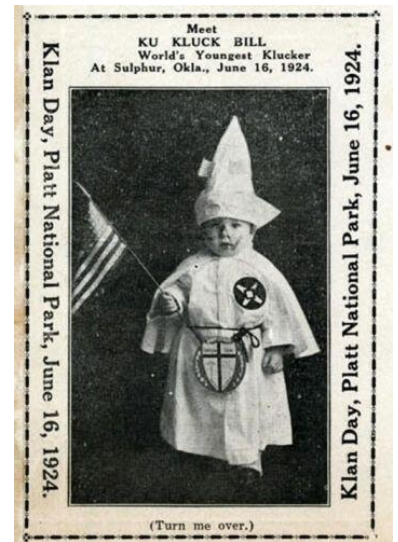
## 4. Lynching and the KKK



The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was established in 1866 in the southern states after the American Civil War. It was a secret organisation that targeted many black Americans, but also other groups such as Catholics and Jewish people.

The popularity of the KKK faded towards the end of the 19th Century but in 1915 the Klan was reformed in Georgia. At its height, the KKK was a “fraternal organisation”, claiming between 4 and 5 million members.

This revival was due in part to the film ‘The Birth of a Nation’, which was set in the southern states in the aftermath of the Civil War. The film showed the KKK protecting white families against groups of black Americans who threatened violence and rape.



### 1. Copy and complete:

The Klan was formed in \_\_\_\_\_. The Klan’s aim was to \_\_\_\_\_.

It was a \_\_\_\_\_ organisation and had between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ members.

### The KKK had several core beliefs:

- They believed that WASPs (white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants) were the most important group within America and that black Americans were inferior humans.
- They discriminated against Catholics, Jewish people, divorced women and Communists.
- In fact the KKK opposed any groups who were not WASPs and said they were protecting ‘the American way of life’.
- They were against any form of equality with, or civil rights for, black people.



## What did the Klan do?

The KKK **burned large crosses** on hills and near homes of victims they wanted to terrorise. Victims might be **kidnapped, whipped, mutilated, tortured**. They also **marched through towns**, threatening people with punishments and warning others to leave town. The KKK **lynched** (by hanging) many black Americans.



Most lynchings were conducted by white mobs against black victims. Lynchings became frequent in the South. Sometimes victims were shot, burned alive, or otherwise tortured and mutilated in the public events. The political message - the promotion of **white supremacy** and black powerlessness - was an important element of the ritual. Lynchings were photographed and published as postcards, which were popular souvenirs in the U.S. Particularly in the West, other minorities - Native Americans, Mexicans and Asians -were also lynched.



### Lynchings concentrated in the South

A Senate measure Monday apologized for its failure to pass anti-lynching legislation well into the 20th century.

Victims of lynchings 1882 to 1968



SOURCE: Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics

AP

Support for the Klan increased after 1920. Reasons for this were many:

1. Unemployment was growing.
2. New immigrants were flooding into the US.
3. Black Americans were moving North and competing with poor White Americans.
4. Poor Whites saw Klansmen as their protectors.




# Challenges

## 1. 9 Mark Essay

To what extent were the Jim Crow laws the biggest difficulty faced by Black Americans in the USA?

To write your short essay, you need to structure it using this format:

- Intro – reword the question. Then tell me what you will write about.
- Main body paragraphs (factors to talk about):
  1. Jim Crow laws– what this was and how it made life difficult.
  2. The way that Black Americans were prevented from voting and why this made life difficult.
  3. Lynching - what this was and how it made life difficult.
  4. KKK - what this was and how it made life difficult.
- Conclusion - in your opinion what was the biggest difficulty for black Americans? Give a reason why using 'because'.

To what extent / how important / how successful (N5)		
 <b>Bronze</b>	 <b>Silver</b>	 <b>Gold</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction with factors</li><li>• At least 2 factors with 2 different pieces of knowledge</li><li>• A judgement or overall conclusion.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction with factors,</li><li>• At least 2 factors with 3 pieces of knowledge</li><li>• A judgement or overall conclusion, and a reason in support of the conclusion.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction with factors</li><li>• Structured main body with at least 2 factors with 5 pieces of knowledge</li><li>• A judgement or overall conclusion, and a reason in support of the the conclusion.</li></ul>

You choose! Pick one of the two following challenges:

2. **Evaluate the usefulness** of Source B as evidence of the actions of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.

Source B is from a textbook written by modern historians published in 2012.

**Source B:**




The original Ku Klux Klan was a white supremacist organisation founded in 1866. Wearing white robes and pointed hats, the Klan of the 1920s looked similar to the original. During elections, the Klan would wait outside the voting place to beat up blacks if they came near. Women considered immoral were also targeted by the Klan. A divorced woman in Texas was tarred and feathered for remarrying. A massive march in Washington DC in 1925 was a demonstration of the Klan's power.

Write your answer out like this:

*Source A was written by \_\_\_\_\_ making it more/less useful (as \_\_\_\_\_).*

*Source A was written in \_\_\_\_\_ making it more / less useful (as \_\_\_\_\_).*

*Source A states " \_\_\_\_\_ " which makes it more/less useful as it matches my knowledge.*

Evaluate the usefulness of a source (L4)		
 <b>Bronze</b>	 <b>Silver</b>	 <b>Gold</b>
Can identify the <b>origin</b> (author and date) and <b>content</b> of a source.	Can identify the <b>origin</b> (author and date) <u>or</u> <b>content</b> of a source and <b>say why this is useful or not</b>	Can identify the <b>origin</b> (author and date) <u>and</u> <b>content</b> of a source and <b>say why this is useful or not</b>

OR:

2. You are a Black American living in the South in 1898. Create a poster warning other Black Americans at the time, about the KKK.

Keep it simple and include illustration(s). Your poster should include:

- Who the KKK are
- What they do
- Where in the USA their violence occurs the most
- Gold level: What might Black Americans do to avoid them? (Is there anything they can do?)

