



Key event timeline		Key words and definitions	
1945	After WWII Britain faced severe economic problems - The national debt had risen from £760 million to £3500 million. Britain entered an age of austerity with high taxes and low spending. Housing was a serious issue (1/3 had been destroyed). There were food shortages and a lack of raw materials to make anything. Rationing continued for another 10 years – people were only allowed a certain amount.	Immigrant	a person who comes <u>into</u> the country to live there.
		Austerity	a time when economic conditions were very difficult.
1948	The British Nationalities Act was passed. This stated that anyone born in Britain or the British Commonwealth was a British subject. Britain needed people from the Commonwealth to come and work in Britain to help the economy recover. Many people wanted to leave their own countries where life was hard. They were attracted to Britain where they believed they would find good jobs and be able to improve their lives.	Nationality	belonging to a particular nation/country.
1950's – 1960's	Many immigrants from Britain's colonies faced severe hardships when they arrived. In particular there was a severe prejudice against them and they had to deal with racism every day. Many became labourers, cleaners and bus conductors even when they were more qualified. Immigrants were often segregated and violently treated.	'Push' factor 'Pull' factor	Reasons to leave a country. Reasons to go to a country.
1958	Summer of violence - violent clashes in Nottingham, home to about 2,500 Caribbeans and about 600 Asians. White youths violently attacked black and Asian people. In August large-scale fighting broke out between black and white youths. In September 1958 gangs of white youths attacked Caribbean people and their homes in Notting Hill (London). For three nights around 400 white youths attacked, even using petrol bombs. On the third night the black population fought back, angry that they had received no protection from the police. In the spring of 1959 Kelso Cochrane, a carpenter from Antigua, was murdered by six white youths.	Migration	Moving from one place/country to another.
		Commonwealth	Organisation including the UK and its current/former colonies.
		Colony	Territory/country under the rule of another country.
1962	The Commonwealth Immigrants Act - introduced a voucher system which restricted immigration to people who had a valuable skill or could do a job where there was a shortage of workers. It was aimed at restricting the influx of immigrants from the New Commonwealth.	British subject	Someone with the right to live/work in Britain – under British control.
1968	Enoch Powell made a speech in Birmingham. He heavily criticized immigration and claimed it was turning white British people into the minority. It became known as the 'Rivers of blood' speech. Powell argued that the immigrants did not want to integrate and it would lead to more violence and bloodshed.	Prejudice	Disliking someone/something without reason or experience.
1977	The Battle of Lewisham – National Front march in London with 500 rightwing extremists. There were also large crowds of counter-protesters who wanted to prevent the National Front from marching. There were ferocious clashes and the police were also involved. At least 111 people were injured, including 56 police officers, and 214 people arrested.	Segregated	Kept apart due to race/religion/beliefs.
		Discriminate	Treat a person differently due to their race/religion/beliefs.
1980	St Paul's Riots in Bristol – attacks on police, more than 140 people were arrested and 16, picked out as ringleaders, faced trial on a charge of riot.. There were increasing accusations of the police force being racist and discriminating against black people.	Integrate	Mix in or unite with something/someone.
1981	Brixton Riots – 3 days of rioters (mostly young black men) attacking police, buildings and setting fire to vehicles. More than 300 people were injured and the damage caused came to an estimated value of £7.5m.	Interpretation	A particular way of viewing an event after it has happened.
1997	Murder of Stephen Lawrence by a gang of white youths in London.		