

# SUBJECT: History

## UNIT: How did the war change Sunderland? Post-War Britain



### Culture in the 1950s/60s


**Music-** In the 1950s, British music was influenced by American rock 'n' roll, with Elvis Presley becoming hugely popular. In the 1960s, British bands like The Beatles rose to global fame, leading the "British Invasion" and transforming pop and rock music worldwide.

**Fashion-** 1950s British fashion was formal and conservative, with women in full skirts and men in sharp suits, while Teddy Boys introduced a rebellious youth style. In the 1960s, fashion became more youthful and expressive, with miniskirts, bold patterns, and the Mod subculture leading modern, stylish trends.

**TV-** Became more widespread, replacing radio as main entertainment. Two-thirds of homes owned a television. The programmes were shown in black and white. A second and commercialised TV channel was added in 1955.

### The Welfare State

**Beveridge Report 1942 said there were 5 Giants in society:** Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor, Idleness- Recommended a **Welfare State, From 1945-51 the new Labour government passed a range of important WELFARE measures including:**

1945 Family Allowances Act- 5 shillings  per week per child in any family.

1946 National Insurance Act- benefits for any worker who was unemployed, injured or sick

1946 National Health Service Act- implemented free health care from July 1948

1947 Town and Country Planning Act and New Towns Act- clearance of slums and bomb damaged housing and relocation of many of the poorest in Britain's cities and towns

1948 Children Act- local authorities set up services to protect children

1949 Housing Act- massive programme of building new housing with the latest mod-cons

### Immigration

Empire Comes home: People from Ireland, Caribbean, Europe, Cyprus, Kenya, India and Far East moved to Britain for economic reasons such as work and poverty, as well as political and social reasons like genocide and racism

#### Impact of Immigration:

- Music: Musicians such as members of the Beatles, later artists like Freddie Mercury, Dua Lipa have all/are all descendants of immigrants and have influenced British music
- Food: Huge variants of food such as Indian, Chinese, Italian. Chicken Tikka Masala voted Britain's favourite dish
- NHS: Our health service has hugely benefitted from the expertise of people **from all over the world**

### Health

#### **NHS created in 1948**

- Vast majority of doctors were against it (41,000 OUT OF 45,500)
- Between 1948 and 1978 the number of doctors doubled
- Life expectancy increased
- Greatest impact on women and children. Life expectancy for women increased from 45 in 1910 to 76 in 1970

Impact on children due to infant vaccinations and check-ups/medication- infant mortality fell from 65,000 to 20,000

### Education

The 1944 Butler Act introduced the Tripartite System, raised the school leaving age, and split education into stages. The 1988 Reform Act ended the system, introduced the National Curriculum, SATs, GCSEs, and league tables. Educational achievement varies by gender, class, and ethnicity, with Chinese and Indian pupils performing best.

### Housing

Slum areas and those damaged in war were demolished

- New social housing like Thorney Close created to improve quality of living- more spacious, gardens, indoor sanitation