**Questions to the movies**

This is a list of sample questions related to the two films of the syllabus for those who choose the film option as part of the British History exam:

The Iron Lady (dir. Phyllida Lloyd)

1. Which stages of Thatcher’s life are presented before the start of her political career (before her election as MP for Finchley in 1959)?
2. Which two bombings are constantly juxtaposed and linked (in Thatcher’s past and present experiences) in the film? Which of them affected Thatcher’s life and how?
3. When Thatcher (Roberts) lost her first election as the Conservative candidate of Dartford, her would-be husband, Denis, consoled her by saying: “You deserve a safe seat.” What does this mean?
4. Why was the year 1974 decisive in British politics? How does it appear in the film? What position did Thatcher hold in that year?
5. What does the film tell about the power of trade unions in the 1970s? How can you describe their actual power with a few parameters?
6. How did the Northern Irish conflict escalate beyond Northern Ireland in the 1970s and 1980s? How did Thatcher cope with the Northern Irish conflict according to the film? What does the film not tell about Thatcher’s Northern Irish policies?
7. Which political opponents of Thatcher does the movie present? Why and how did they oppose Thatcher’s policies?
8. Who was “Geoffrey” (key member of the Thatcher administration) in real life?
9. Why did Thatcher insist on waging war against Argentina? What casualties did Britain suffer? What was the consequence of Britain’s (and Thatcher’s) victory?
10. Why was Thatcher’s taxation policy unpopular?
11. Which areas or aspects of Thatcher’s policies does the film ignore?
12. Who were the PMs before and after Thatcher? Which factors contributed to her first election victory, and what caused her “downfall”?

The King’s Speech (dir. Tom Hooper)

1. Which king is the protagonist of the film? Under what circumstances did he accede to the throne? Which were the major turning points of his reign?
2. What was the historical and cultural significance George V’s Christmas speech, also shown in the film?
3. Why did the brother of “the King” abdicate? How did Edward continue his life?
4. Which PMs appear in the movie? Which aspects of their policies are focused on?
5. Who were the pre-WWII prime ministers of the King’s reign? How was the king related to them?
6. Which positions did Churchill hold in the government before becoming PM? What does the film show about the relationship of Churchill and the King? What is known about their relationship?
7. The movie ends with the King’s first war speech. When and how did Britain enter this war? Who were Britain’s allies? What was the War of Britain (War of England)? Which losses di Britain suffer in the war?