**The Nineteenth Century: Queen Victoria, the Great Exhibition**

**and the Victorian values**

(seminar video worksheet)

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| **Important dates:** | **1837, 1851 (Great Exhibition), 1848 (year of revolutions in Europe)** |
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| **Names & Places:** | **Queen Victoria (reigned 1837--1901), The Great Exhibition, The Crystal Palace, Prince Albert, George IV, William IV, the Regency (or Regency Era), The Kensington Palace, Lord Melbourne (British Prime Minister), Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (German family name)** |
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| **Vocabulary:** | **to be flooded with religious awe, to be filled with devotion, courtiers and flunkeys, a showcase for Britain’s industrial empire, a cheerful queue for the turnstiles, the gaping mechanical jaws, the prophets of doom, to wave a magic wand, mechanical brutes, to turn (machines) from ogres to busy friendly giants, happy to be gazed on a family outing, the moving force behind (e.g. the exhibition), a badge of pride, a home-maker (as opposed to a home-breaker)**  **as pure as a rosebud, a welcome changed from sthg, addicted to the pleasures of the bed and the table, indifferent to the hardships endured by the mass of their subjects, to be brought up as a model of moderation and self-denial, to pamper for sb, (somebody’s) nursery years, bracingly ordinary places, to be subjected to an evangelical regime, prayers and constant self-examination, to keep a behavior book full of solemn and self-critical entries, Christian betterment, self-improvement, the landscape of British (industrial) inferno, sooty and sulphurous, burning coal heaps intermingled with wretched huts, to carry (royal) regalia with aplomb, to totter, to do homage, precocious, Whig Prime Minister, to talk down to sb, off-colour jokes, the most desirable catch in Europe, to throw banquets and balls, eligible princes, a lock of sb’s hair, to wallow in the kissing sessions, to wear trousers in the marriage, to melt away into the amazed bliss of conjugal love** |
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### TASK 1: *Watch Simon Shama’s fifth volume of* A History of Britain *entitled Victoria and Her Sisters (Introduction, Chapter 01), where the author discusses the reign of Queen Victoria. As you listen take notes to answer the following questions.*

1. What national event in 1851 caught the attention and imagination of the British people?
   * Who opened the event?
   * What was the symbol of this event? (Describe it.)
   * What was shown at the event and what significance was it supposed to have?
   * How popular was the event with ordinary British people?
   * According to S. Shama, in what way was Britain’s 1851 different to Europe’s 1848?

**TASK 2: (Victoria ascends the British throne (DVD, Chapter 02) *Instructions same as above.***

1. How old was Victoria when she ascended the British throne?
2. In what way did Victoria wanted her reign to be different to that of William IV?
3. In what way was Victoria brought up? What were her personal memories of childhood?
4. How did Victoria feel about one of her first visits to the industrial area of Birmingham?
5. What sort of impression did Victoria make during her coronation?