**Aim:**

**Topic: President Lyndon B. Johnson and his Great Society Program**

**Document #1 – Great Society Speech**

*“The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time. But that is just the beginning. The Great Society is a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents. It is a place where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect, not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness. It is a place where the city of man serves not only the needs of the body and the demands of commerce but the desire for beauty and the hunger for community.”*

**1) According to Johnson what is a Great Society?**

**2) What do you think Johnson might do to make America a great society (what kind of laws/acts might he want to pass?)**

**Part II – Great Society Programs – Individually or in pairs, read Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society programs. For each program:**

1. **2-3 bullet points on the main idea of what it intends to accomplish**
2. **2-3 bullet points if you think it will make society “great.”**

1) **Johnson’s “War on Poverty” and Economic Programs**

*“I have called for a national ‘War on Poverty.’ Our objective: total victory. There are millions of people who have not shared in the abundance which has been granted to most of us…it strikes at the causes of poverty.”*

The most ambitious and controversial part of the Great Society was its initiative to end poverty. The centerpiece of the **“**[**War on Poverty**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_on_Poverty)**”** was the [**Economic Opportunity Act of 1964**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_Opportunity_Act_of_1964), which gave $3 billion over two years for schooling, job training, healthcare, housing and **welfare programs (**extra money from the government for poor people). Dozens of programs were created such as the [**Job Corps**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Job_Corps), whose purpose was to help disadvantaged youth develop marketable (useful) skills; the [**Neighborhood Youth Corps**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Neighborhood_Youth_Corps&action=edit&redlink=1), established to give poor urban youths work experience and to encourage them to stay in school; **the** [**Housing**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Model_Cities_Program) **and Urban Development (HUD) program** for urban redevelopment (to build houses in cities); [**Upward Bound**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upward_Bound), which gave money to poor high school students entering college; legal services for the poor; the [**Food Stamps**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Stamps) **program** which gave poor people government coupons for food; the [**Community Action Program**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_Action_Program), which helped the poor become self-sufficient; and **Project** [**Head Start**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_Start_(education)), which offered preschool education for poor children.

2) **Civil Rights** -- Johnson passed four civil rights acts (3 in his first 2 years!) The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** made job discrimination (and started an **affirmative action program to make sure businesses hire an equal amount of black people)** and segregation of public places illegal. The [**Voting Rights Act of 1965**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_Rights_Act_of_1965) made it illegal to make tests to stop minorities from voting. The [**Immigration and Nationality Services Act of 1965**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_and_Nationality_Services_Act_of_1965) abolished the national-origin quotas which said that only a certain number of people from each country can come to America each year. **The** [**Civil Rights Act of 1968**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1968)banned housing discrimination and extended constitutional protections to [Native Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) on [reservations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_reservation).

3) **Education** -- The [**Elementary and Secondary Education Act**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elementary_and_Secondary_Education_Act) of 1965, provided $1 billion to public schools, to help schools purchase materials and start special education programs to schools with a high concentration of low-income children. The [**Higher Education Act of 1965**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_Education_Act_of_1965) increased federal money given to universities, created scholarships and low-interest loans for students, and established a [**National Teachers Corps**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Teachers_Corps) to provide teachers to poverty stricken areas of the United States. It began a transition from federally funded institutional assistance to individual student aid. The [**Bilingual Education Act**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilingual_Education_Act) of 1968 offered federal aid to local school districts in assisting them to address the needs of children with limited English-speaking ability.

4) **Medicare and Medicaid** Johnson wanted to expand on FDR’s New Deal in relation to healthcare, too. Since most people can only get healthcare from insurance companies or if their jobs give them health care, Johnson worried about the poorer people who could not afford it or did not have a job which it was included. The new [**Social Security Act of 1965**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Security_Act_of_1965) authorized created a **Medicare Program** which helped people over age 65 with medical expenses. Johnson also created a **Medicaid Program** which helped poor people under 65 years old with medical expenses.

**Part III – Criticisms:**

**Task: 1) Explain each criticism of the great society in your own words.**

**2) Exit Ticket: On a separate sheet of paper, write one paragraph (5-7 sentences) using S.P.A. if you believe the Great Society would help to make America “Great” or if it hurt America.**

*“The only thing Johnson’s War on Poverty did was to create an underclass of citizens dependent on the government.”* - Historian Charles Murray

*“"The black family, which had survived centuries of slavery and discrimination, began rapidly disintegrating in the liberal welfare state that subsidized unwed pregnancy and changed welfare from an emergency rescue to a way of life."* – Economist Thomas Sowell