

Unit 1

MT (1925-) née Roberts

@Grantham (Lincolnshire) father a grocer

Oxford University, degree in Natural Sciences

1950 fights constituency of Dartford (Kent) for Tories, 1951 General Election: fails;

marries businessman Dennis Thatcher

1959 elected as MP for Finchley

1964-70 holds a number of front-bench positions while Tories are in opposition

1970 Secretary of State for Education and Science (-1974)

1975 challenges Edward Heath for party leadership: wins

1973	Uk and Ireland join EEC; Miners' Strike; OPEC: oil embargo (till January 1974)
1974	Edward Heath resigns; General Election: Labour tiny majority: Harold Wilson PM until 1976
1975	MT elected Tory leader
1976	Wilson resigns: James Callaghan succeeds him until 1979
1978	Beginning of 'Winter of Discontent': pay freezes+strikes
1979	General Election: Labour defeated; MT PM (4 May, until 1990)
1980	Chancellor Geoffrey Howe reveals deflationary 'medium-term financial strategy'; Thatcher under fire: October speech @ Tory party conference; Michael Foot succeeds Callaghan as Labour leader; unemployment: 2 million
1982	Argentina invades Falklands: Falklands War (May-June); Unemployment: 3 million
1983:	General Election: MT, landslide victory, overall majority: 144 seats; Neil Kinnock Labour leader
1984	IRA attack, Brighton hotel used by Tories: 5 killed, MT survives; Miners' Strike begins (March)
1985	Miners vote to end strike
1986	Jeffrey Archer (party chairman): sexual scandal, resigns
1987	Gen Election: MT third term as PM, overall majority 102; cabinet announces introduction of community charge ('poll tax'); Stock Exchange Crash ('Black Monday', in October): £50 wiped off share values
1988	Liberal Democratic Party: Liberal + Social Democratic Parties; Thatcher's speech in Bruges against greater European unity
1989	Community Charge (Poll Tax) implemented in Scotland; privatization of water charges in England; John Major becomes Chancellor
1990	Britain refuses to join single European currency; Heseltine declares challenge to MT's leadership; withdraws from election to Conservative party leadership; end of premiership (November): replaced by John Major; poll tax implemented in England: march becomes riot in London (March)
1991	Poll tax becomes Council Tax, based on property values; Gulf War (17 Jan)
1992	Gen Election: Tory victory; Kinnock resigns: John Smith;

	privatization of coal industry
1994	John Smith dies: Tony Blair replaces him
1997	Gen Election: Labour landslide victory