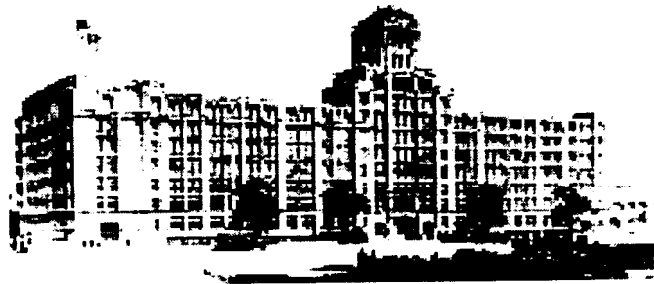


FRESHMEN

COLLEGE CONFERENCE

SOPHOMORES

**"IMPROVING YOUR
CHANCES FOR SUCCESSFUL
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS"**



BROOKLYN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

29 FT. GREENE PLACE

BROOKLYN, NY 11217

DR. LEE D. McCASKILL, PRINCIPAL

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COLLEGE OFFICE (ROOM 1W2)

- College/Career Counseling
- PSAT/SAT/ACT/AP test materials and applications.
- Financial aid info including FAFSA forms, CSS Profiles, Brochures, Fact Sheets, etc.
- Weekly newsletter for seniors
- Scholarship info/applications provided
- College references, resources, texts, video tapes.
- College and Scholarship Applications Processing.
- NCAA Clearinghouse Processing.
- Fee Waiver Distribution to eligible students (SAT I and II, CUNY, SUNY, CSS Profile and AP).
- Link to College Admission Process, Conferences with College Reps, College Fair, College Night.
- Duplicate transcripts and diplomas for alumni.
- Senior Academic Awards Dinner
- National Honor Society Information
- High School Articulation
- College Information Center in Center Section of Cafeteria Tuesday through Thursday. Pick up latest bulletins and publications.

What Does a College Bound Student Need To Know Early On In The Application Process?

What constitutes the Academic Record?

Your **GPA** (Grade Point Average) is simply the average of a student's semester grades, starting with the freshman year. Please note! Brooklyn Tech does not use a weighted average. Honors and advanced level courses are highly recommended since colleges and Tech place more weight on them.

Class Rank is not used at any of the 3 specialized high schools. However, it is extremely important in order to apply for scholarships as usually students must be in the top 10%, 20%, 25% etc. Class rank is usually represented by the student's GPA and total in the class.

A **Student Transcript** is a document that details a student's academic achievement in high school. It includes all courses, grades, credits and Regents scores for each grade level beginning with grade 9.

The **PSAT, SAT, SAT II, ACT** are standardized exams which colleges use to decide admission. The PSAT is scored on a scale ranging from 20 to 80 for each subject; verbal, math and writing skills.

PSAT/NMSQT (*Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test*) - a practice test for the SAT which is also used to determine National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists. It is given each October, primarily to juniors.

The PSAT consists of five sections: 2 verbal, 2 math and 1 writing. The writing skills section is multiple choice, and is designed to measure a "student's ability to express ideas effectively in standard written English, recognize faults in usage and structure and use language with sensitivity to meaning." The questions on the writing skills section will be very similar to the multiple-choice questions on the SAT II: Subject Tests in Writing. The good news: on the writing skills section, you will NOT have to write an essay.

The National Merit Scholarship index will be computed as follows $V+M+W$. (In the past, the index was $M+2V$).

SAT I (*Scholastic Assessment Test*) - a college entrance examination, generally taken during the junior and /or senior year. Students receive a Verbal and a Math score.

ACT (*American College Test*) - a college entrance examination, generally taken during the junior and/or senior year. Students receive scores in English, Reading, Math and Science Reasoning, as well as a Composite score.

SAT II: Subject Tests - one-hour tests which measure a student's knowledge of specific subjects, and his/her ability to apply that knowledge. These tests are required by most colleges. Students usually take the writing test, one math test and one science/social studies test depending on their potential area of concentration.

What are the skills I need to develop to be successful in school now and in the college application process later?

Before entrance into college or the work force, there are essential skills you develop in high school. These skills range from learning how to manage time, to retrieving and organizing information, to taking notes in class. The following briefly explains these skills.

Academic & personal skills: These can help you organize and prioritize homework and extracurricular activities by learning how to plan and manage your time. These skills will also help you learn to appreciate the cultural diversity of the people in your school and to develop your own value system.

Information Management Skills: Upon entrance into college or the work force, you must understand how to use a computer. You should also be familiar with libraries and how they are organized, the services libraries provide, and the ways to find information there.

Communication Skills: You must be able to read, write, and speak clearly and articulately. Whether you are writing in your personal journal or engaging in a class discussion, communicating your thoughts and ideas clearly is essential for overall understanding between yourself and others.

Reading: To build skills in reading, you will have to be able to read all sorts of writing. You will also need to learn to summarize and explain both what you have read orally and in writing. Learning how to compare materials you have read with other works of a different nature is also a skill you will need to develop. There is a suggested reading list at the end of this booklet.

Writing: Writing skills are essential in both college and work. Writing is a process that can be improved upon by rewriting papers you are developing for your daily classes, correcting errors, and strengthening your arguments. Being able to organize, evaluate, and summarize in writing the information you have obtained for class reports will also enhance your writing ability.

Taking Notes & Participating in Class: Taking accurate and detailed notes will help you to get the most out of a class lecture. Asking questions and participating in class discussions will allow you to contribute and exchange ideas with others. Don't be afraid to ask questions in class - often, others may have similar questions but are afraid to ask!

Analytical Skills: The world is full of discoveries waiting to happen and questions to be answered. Don't hesitate to seek solutions to problems on your own - for example, relate patterns or solutions for math or science problems that are of interest to you by using instruments such as books, tables, graphs, calculators, or computer programs to help you draw your own educated opinion or conclusion.

College Recommended Courses must be reviewed in the college catalogs of the colleges to which you will be applying. Honors and A.P. classes are viewed more favorably because they indicate that a student chose a more rigorous curriculum rather than an easy schedule.

The best rule to follow: when in doubt, opt for the toughest course. Regardless of where they draw the line, colleges will look more favorably on you for accepting a challenge than avoiding one.

Common Sense Study

There are also everyday ways to prepare yourself to do some successful test taking!

- Read For Pleasure. It's a great way to absorb vocabulary words without knowing you're doing so!)
- Get organized. Write down in a planner test dates, study plan, vacation, everything. The key to success in each aspect of life is organization!
- Recent studies have shown that people learn more when study is followed by at least six hours of sleep. Do not sacrifice rest for cramming - plan a smart study schedule with time for daily study and sleep.
- Time to Study? Make sure you're in a well lit area, turn off the music, turn off the television and focus on the task at hand. Knowing your own learning style (visual, auditory or kinesthetic) and studying accordingly makes a difference.
- Visual learners should read, look, see, highlight, watch...
- Auditory learners should listen in class, have discussions about class work, listen to tapes, repeat aloud, study aloud with or without a partner...
- Kinesthetic learners should write, touch, build, feel, do, put hands on, make use...

How can I show colleges that my academic achievements set me apart from other students?

National Honor Society - ARISTA

"The National Honor Society is the front runner of organizations and societies that promote appropriate recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership and service."

Dale D. Haley

The purpose for (NHS) is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and to develop character.

What are the requirements or membership in the NHS?

In order to qualify for Tech's National Honor Society, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- be a junior or a senior. An applicant cannot apply **before his/her fourth term is finished.**
- have at least an **85 average** - a student with a G.P.A. of 84.4 would not be accepted.
- have fulfilled his/her **graduation requirement of at least one activity per term for each term in the school.** For example, a student could be on a squad 1st semester, a team the 2nd or a squad for two terms, a club, a publication, leadership, etc. or any combination.
- **submit two letters for recommendation** attesting to the applicant's scholarship and service to the school/community, leadership, character and commitment. These letters must include **one from a coach, advisor, scout leader or a volunteer coordinator.** These letters must be on official letterhead and presented to N.H.S. in sealed envelopes. These letters must respond to the info asked by N.H.S. and these will not be returned.

- Write an essay (no less than five paragraphs) on the following topic:

"People today do not understand the meaning of the word commitment and all that it entails."

Applications will be distributed to Sophomores in September of 2000.

Application for National Beta Club

promoting leadership and achievement

Beta Club members consider service a duty and a privilege. Beta Club members across the nation dedicate thousands of hours each week to lead by serving others.

Beta members lead by:

- planning
- taking action
- giving
- thinking
- serving

They are a positive motivating force. The Beta Club promotes the development of well-rounded individuals through the principles of its creed: "We lead by serving others." It stresses cooperation, responsibility, honesty, humility, industriousness, charity, justice, and service.

To qualify, you must:

1. have an average of 85 or better
2. have completed:
 - 375 hrs of community service by the start of your senior year
 - 275 hrs of community service by the start of your junior year
 - 175 hrs of community service by the start of your sophomore year
(this applies to incoming sophomores as well.)
3. have fulfilled the citizenship requirement according to your grade level
4. have approval from your grade level
 - COSA
 - guidance counselor

In addition to these qualifications, you must complete an essay portion attached ~~with~~ your application.

A copy of your student transcript, June 2000 report card, and a letter verifying your community service hours must be attached.

How do I choose a Career?

A first step in deciding what to do after high school is to talk with a counselor or a teacher for advice. Ask your counselor about taking an aptitude test or interest inventory to find your strengths, weaknesses and interests to discover potential career choices that are right for you.

1. Learn about yourself.

- **Values** - What is important to you? Do you like working with others, or do you prefer working by yourself? Do you like working with your hands? Do you prefer variety or a familiar routine?
- **Interests** - What appeals to you? What do you enjoy? Do you like solving problems? What gets your attention?
- **Aptitude** - What are you good at? Are you good with words? Do you have artistic talent? Can you fix things?

2. Once you've narrowed your career choices, **talk to people who are working in that field** or, if possible, find a part-time job in that field.

People who like their jobs (and even people who don't) are usually happy to talk about them. It's helpful to ask questions such as: "What's good and bad about this job?" Ask them how they learned their trade. There are many sources of career and job information available - go to your school library, public library, school counselor or use the internet.

3. Consider how much training you will need for the career you're interested in.

- **High school diploma:** cashier, receptionist, salesperson, security guard, telephone operator, waiter/waitress
- **Special career training:** auto technician, firefighter, machinist, medical technician, police officer, computer operator, commercial artist
- **College degree:** accountant, counselor, engineer, nurse, pilot, public relations specialist
- **Graduate degree:** college professor, dentist, lawyer, veterinarian, research scientist, architect, psychologist, also know that the more educated you are, the more degrees that you accomplish, the money/salary that you earn (almost) always gets higher.

How do I choose a College Carefully?

Your education will determine your future opportunities for career choices and salary level. Going to school is a big investment. You're investing your time and chances are you'll also have to invest your own money or take out a student loan to go to school. You need to be sure that you're making the right choice.

1. Talk to your counselor. Your school counselor is the first stop for information about the many options available to you. Counselors can help you focus on your own needs and goals, and they have all kinds of information about different types of schools. Your counselor can also help you collect or prepare

How much do my high school classes matter when I apply to College?

Is a "B" in tough course worth more than an "A" in an easy course? It's a question heard regularly as each new class of high school students approaches its college application days. At USA Today's College Admission Hotline, it comes up several times a year.

The answer never changes. It's a resounding "yes". The first item that almost all colleges look at on an application is the list of courses on the transcript. Not the grades, but the list of courses. Your grade point average is important, but the path you took to get it tells more.

Colleges look first for evidence that you challenged yourself academically, that you prepare yourself for college work, and that you don't run away from tough tasks. All this is learned from your high school course selection.

You may have been the nicest person the admissions officer ever met during your campus visit. But if your school offers 12 Advanced Placement courses and you took none, your great personality is not enough. Ask any admissions officer at an even moderately selective college about factors in decision making and he/she say : "First we look at what you've done."

Colleges first look at your record in the "Big Five", the so-called "solid" subjects that make up the college preparatory curriculum: English, math, science, social studies and foreign language. Many would like to see four years of study in four of those areas, and two years in foreign language. Most require a minimum # of "solids" as a condition for admission.

Colleges then look at what you've done in relation to what your high school offers. Are Honors and AP courses available? If you've challenged yourself with the toughest possible curriculum you won't be penalized because your school offers nothing tougher. Have you cluttered your high school years with easy courses taken to get a sure "A" and pad your GPA? The reaction that that produces in admission offices is negative.

A "B" in an AP course is worth more than an "A" in a regular course, the honor course wins every time. If it's a difference of one grade, you're better off in honors. If it's two grades, you're better off in a regular course."

At the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, one of the nation's most selective public colleges, Admission Director James Walters pulls the line down even further. "If a student can gain at least a "C" in an advanced course," he says, "we would recommend every time that the student take the most challenging curriculum."

Why and how do I become involved in community service?

Community Service

Community voluntary service is recommended for all students, but is not mandated. For many prestigious colleges, community service questions are on the applications. Volunteerism is an absolute requirement for application to outstanding colleges/universities.

In the senior year Tech awards Community Service Certificates according to the following chart:

Bronze	-	100 hours of service
Silver	-	<u>150 hours of service</u>
Gold	-	200 hours of service

All Community Service must be verified by letters from the service agencies given to your guidance counselor or house administrator.

Suggested Volunteer Programs

1. American Red Cross	212 787-1000
2. Volunteer Action Center	212 566-5950
3. UNICEF	212 326-7000
4. City Volunteer Corps	212 475-6444
5. Presbyterian Medical Center	212 305-2500
6. Prospect Park Volunteers	718 788-0055
7. Sloan Kettering Center	212 639-5980
8. Visiting Nurse Service	212 714-9250/718 375-4551
9. Downstate Medical	718 270-1000
10. Police Athletic League	212 477-9450
11. Long Island College Hospital	718 780-1000
12. Visiting Nurse Association	718 636-1077
13. Brooklyn Hospital	718 403-8050
14. Special Olympics	718 474-8314
15. Food for Survival	212 991-4300
16. New York Parks & Recreation (by Borough)	718 995-8900
17. Mount Sinai Medical Center	212 241-6288
18. New York Libraries (by Borough)	718 780-7700
19. YMCA Greater New York	212 630-9600
20. New York Lung Association	212 889-3370
21. New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens	718 670-1231
22. Chinatown Day Care Center, Inc.	212 431-3845
23. The Brookdale Hospital Medical Center	718 240-5000
24. Immigrant Social Services, Inc.	212 571-1840
25. Fort Greene Youth Patrol, Inc.	718 875-5580
26. Coney Island Hospital	718 615-4230
27. The NYC Dept. of Mental Health	718 643-4620
28. The American Red Cross	212 787-1100
29. Coney Island Aquarium	718 265-3474
30. The Bronx Zoo	718 367-1010

The **National Beta Society** honors students involved in community service. The following page explains what is necessary for membership in Beta.

F.A.Q.S FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should you take college courses during high school?

College Recommended Courses must be reviewed in the college catalogs of the colleges to which you will be applying because all schools will not necessarily transfer credits earned in high school to the college transcript. Honors and A.P. classes are viewed more favorably because they indicate that a student has chosen a more rigorous curriculum over an easy schedule.

Are there special concerns for students who are not citizens?

Citizenship status - when you apply for college financial aid in your senior year, you will be filing a FAFSA form with the federal government. It is extremely important to note that you cannot receive any financial assistance without a green card in hand. You cannot be on a pending list of applicants. You must be a US citizen or have appropriate papers. If you are not a citizen or do not have a green card, begin work on this problem immediately.

Do Regents exams really matter?

Regents Test Scores - the transcript lists all of your Regents exam scores. Colleges look closely at the scores. If you have a 92 average in English but your score is in the 70s on the Regents, it sends a danger signal. The same is true of all Regents scores. Remember, many of you will be applying to highly competitive schools. The Regents scores could be the difference between acceptance and denial.

Are extracurricular activities important?

Student Activities are another integral part of your college application. Colleges not only ask to see a list of activities, but also to show evidence of leadership. Becoming an officer of a club, honor society or captain of a team, squad leader, etc. enhances your chances of admission. It is not the number of activities, but the depth of involvement at which admission counselors look.

Evidence of participation in activities outside of school such as scouting, church, recreational sports and most importantly volunteer work or community service are particularly impressive on an application. You should plan to do volunteer or community service before the summer of your junior year so that you leave that summer free for participation in an academic summer see.

Participation in two March of Dimes Walk-A-Thons is not enough - what they are looking for is commitment such as returning to the same project annually.

Examples of activities that are impressive and worthwhile:

1. Student Government
2. Choir or Orchestra
3. Varsity Sports
4. Community service

-
-
5. Eagle Scout
 6. All-State anything
 7. School publications

Will it help that I'm a student athlete?

Yes! Student athletes are valuable additions to college communities.

NCAA Clearinghouse

The **NCAA Requirements** are for student athletes only. If you plan to

2. Earn a grade point average of at least 2.00 (70 average)
3. Earn a sum of scores of at least 68 on the ACT or a combined score of at least 820 on the recentered SAT on a national test date.

Just remember, it's never too early and it's not too late if you start now! A little bit of exam prep can help a lot and that will help out when it comes time for college app's

Suggested book resources

- **Peterson's Panic Plan for the SAT** by Joan D. Carr (Peterson's) (**book**) will actually help eliminate the anxiety and panic right before the SAT. This guide will help refresh your mind of the many shortcuts and tips (not to mention those vocabulary words and math formulas), that you've been cramming into your brain all along
- **Up your Score** by Manek Mistry, Michael Colton, Paul Rossi, and Larry Berger (Workman Publishing) (**book**) uses silly, but more importantly, memorable, ways to help those mathematical tricks and vocabulary words stick in your head when it really counts-on SAT day!
- **500 SAT Words and How to Remember them Forever and 100 SAT Math Tips and How to Master Them Now** by Charles Gulotta (Mostly Bright Ideas) (**book**) follows in the advice of the old adage: "A picture is worth a thousand words." Cute comics and illustrations make those polysyllabic dictionary words and multiplication rules a cinch to remember.
- **SAT Success** by John Carris and Michael R Crystal (Peterson's) (**book**). Are you searching the bookstore aisles for a guide that's jam-packed with SAT strategies, tips, and training? Stop here! By giving you three full-length tests, it helps you zero in on your SAT weakness, and up the digits of your score.
- **SAT or ACT? Test your Best** by Seppy Basili, Maureen Blair, and Gordon Drummond (Kaplan) (**book**). Yes, at some colleges and universities you do get a choice. Check this book to see which ones want which scores and read up on how to find out if you're SAT or ACT enhanced!

Software CD Rom resources

- **Inside the SAT and ACT** (the Princeton Review). This CD-ROM by the testing big wigs at The Princeton Review has got it all! It includes lessons, shortcuts, practice tests, even a 1,2000+college profile section!

SAT and ACT Preparation Guides

ACT, The Classic Course: Kaplan Source books/Bantam
Official Guide to the ACT Assessment/HBJ
Cracking the ACT/Princeton Review
Kaplan SAT Classic Course/Bantam Doubleday Dell
8 Real SATs/College Board
Up your Score (SAT)/Workman Publishing

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information

Paying Less for College/Petersons
Don't Miss Out/Octameron
The A's and B's of Academic Scholarships/Octameron
The Scholarship Book by Daniel Cassidy
The Financial Aid Book/Perpetual Press
The Black Student's Guide to Scholarships/Bary Beckham
The Complete Scholarship Book/Student Services, Inc.
Money Book for Women and Minorities/Young & Young

WEB SITES

www.petersons.com
www.Kaplan.com
www.collegeboard.org
www.usnews.com

www.princetonreview.com
www.finaid.org
www.campustours.com
www.novakint.com/colleges

www.collegenet.com
www.collegetown.com
www.fastweb.com

The Think College Web Site - A Web site designed to provide publications and information on post secondary opportunities for people of all ages. It contains links to Think College Early (middle school students), High School and Beyond (high school students), and Returning to School (adults). It can be accessed at <http://www.ed.gov/thinkcollege>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

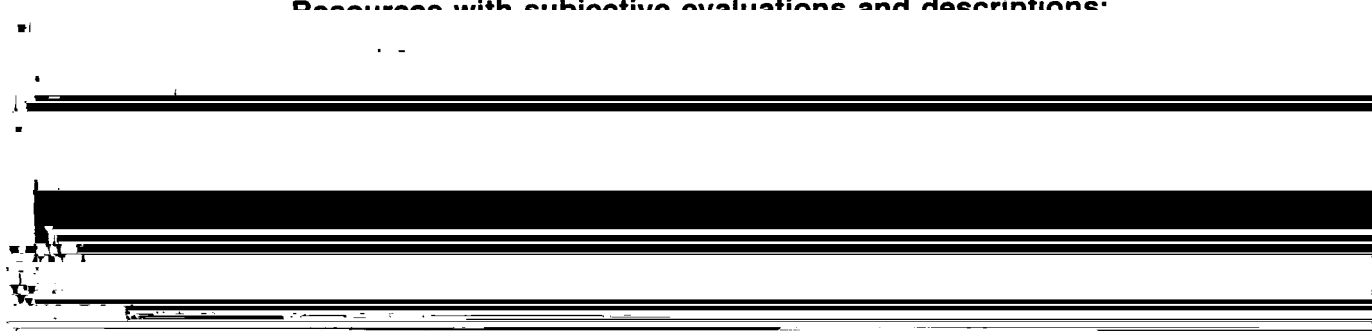
Below is a listing of books and web sites that you can refer to for additional information. Of course this listing is only a small sample of the many excellent resources that are available today. Go to a bookstore and look through the college section and go on line to find college info.

COLLEGE INFORMATION

Resources with objective data and information:

Cass & Birnbaum's Guide to American Colleges/Harper Collins
The College Handbook/College Board
Lovejoy's College Guide/Macmillan
Peterson's Guide to Four - Year Colleges/Petersons
America's Black & Tribal Colleges by J. Wilson Bowman
Four Year College Admissions Index of Majors & Sports/
Orchard House

Resources with subjective evaluations and descriptions:



Build your vocabulary by increasing your reading. Use the Princeton Review, Kaplan Programs or buy other self help texts to aid you. You need to read good literature to improve your vocabulary skills. See reading list below:

Your Summer Reading List

Any good book can increase your vocabulary and critical reading skills, so you may as well have fun. The books we've selected represent great authors you might not have encountered. We recommend all of their books. Enjoy...

Contemporary Non-Fiction (True Stories)

The Autobiography of Malcom X

Alex Haley

If you're not sure who he is definitely read this book. If you've heard of him and would like to learn more, the book will tell you everything.

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil

John Berendt

Murder in Savannah. It's a quirky and compelling true story.

Contemporary Fiction

Stranger in a Strange Land

Robert A. Heinlein

A human raised by Martians returns to Earth after thirty years.

The Secret History

Donna Tartt

Four Vermont college students get involved in a murder and prove how clever they really are.

Geek Love

Katherine Dunn

The oddly formed offspring of a circus family try to fit in despite their physical oddities.

One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest

Ken Kesey

Reading about life in a mental hospital is much better than being there. Also read sometimes a Great Notion.

The Bell Jar

Sylvia Plath

The story of a woman's descent into madness.

Cat's Cradle

Kurt Vonnegut

A bizarre mix of satire, fantasy, and realism dealing with atomic scientists and the end of the world.

Beloved

Toni Morrison

The story of a woman, her daughter, and her ghost daughter.

The Godfather

Mario Puzo

Check out the book about the Mafia that inspired several great movies.

The Joy Luck Club

Amy Tan

The stories of four Chinese mothers followed by the stories of their Americanized daughters.

The World According to Garp

John Irving

All of Irving's books are good. We highly recommend him as an enjoyable contemporary author.

1984

George Orwell

A chilling version of a totalitarian future that has come true in many respects.

The Chosen

Chaim Potok

Bright Lights, Big City

Jay McInerney

A yuppie drug addict discovers that he is his own worst enemy.

The Handmaid's Tale

Margaret Atwood

The America of the future has polluted itself into near extinction, and fertile women are enslaved by aristocracy of religious fanatics.

Time and Time Again

Jack Finney

An artist travels back in time to nineteenth-century New York City.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Zora Neale Hurston

The experience of an African-American community in the early twentieth century.