

GCSE History

Revision

Unit 1

Peace & War:

International Relations

1943-1991

Contents

*About the exam

Key information about the exam and types of questions you will be required to answer.

*Useful internet resources

If you find you have gaps in your notes then you might like to have a look at one or more of these recommended sites.

*Revision Diagrams

Use your class notes to help you complete revision diagrams on the major issues of the unit by writing your ideas in the boxes provided.

*Timeline of leaders

Make sure you know who was in charge of which superpower when.

*Exam Practice Questions

Practice answering real exam style questions to improve your exam technique.

About the Exam

*The title of the exam is International Relations and it is paper 1 of your History GCSE.

*The exam is 1 hour 15 minutes long and you have to answer a total of 9 questions from three different topics.

*The topics you have studied are:

1) How did the Cold War develop (1943-56)

2) Three Cold War Crises: Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia (c1957-69)

3) Why did the Cold War end? The invasion of Afghanistan (1979) to the Collapse of the Soviet Union (1991)

*For each of these topics you will need to answer the following three types of question:

a) A **describe** question worth 2 marks

b) A **briefly explain the key features** question worth 6 marks

c) An **explanation of change** question worth 12 marks

*You will need to spend approximately 25 minutes on each topic. Aim to spend the following time on each question:

2 marks = about 3 minutes

6 marks = about 7 minutes

12 marks = about 14 minutes

*Make sure you leave some time to proof read your answers.

*You may find it helpful to make a brief plan for the longer answers - especially the 12 mark question

Useful Internet Resources

<http://www.coldwar.org/articles/40s/index.asp> (Useful timelines and quizzes)

<http://www.coldwar.net/> (A good general history site and links)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/> (The BBC's mini-site)

<http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/> (CNN's contribution made to accompany a TV series)

<http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/coldwar/> (A typically excellent offering from the National Archives)

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/coldwar.htm> (The conflict broken down into topics)

<http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/revision/superpower.shtml> (Contains interactive quizzes and revision material)

Revision Spider Diagrams

Yalta

Agreement?

Changes

The origins of the Cold War - Yalta & Potsdam

Potsdam

Agreement?

Iron Curtain

Greece

Communism

Doctrine

**Truman Doctrine and
Marshall Aid - What
were they?**

Marshall Aid

Just being helpful?

Tension

Yalta - background

Stalin's concerns

Stalin's reaction

The Berlin Blockade -
why did it happen and what
were the consequences?

'Allied' reaction

Consequences for USSR

Consequences for USA

Background

Khrushchev

Overthrow

**What happened in
Hungary in 1956?**

Red Army

Pleas for help

Consequences

Spy plane

Shot down

American denials

**Why was the U2 incident
so serious? What were the
consequences?**

Clear evidence

Conflict

Consequences

Background

Differences

Problems

**How significant was the
Berlin Wall? Why was it
built?**

13th August 1961

Concrete Wall

Consequences

Background

Nuclear site spotted

ExComm set up

**What made the Cuban
Missile Crisis the most
serious incident of the Cold
War?**

On the brink of war

Compromise

Consequences

Allies to enemies?

Alliances

Arms Race

**1945-62 - How and why
did Superpower relations
change?**

Mutual co-existence

Crises

After 1962

Reasons for Détente

Better relations

Co-operation

**1963-1979 - What was
achieved during the era
of Détente?**

Helsinki

SALT II?

Conclusions

Afghanistan

Gorbachev & Reagan

Friendship

**How and why did the
Cold War end?**

Meetings

Change

End to Cold War

Timeline of Leaders

USA	USSR
1933-45: Franklin D Roosevelt	1922-53: Josef Stalin
1945-53: Harry Truman	Mar 1953: Georgy Malenkov
1953-61: Dwight Eisenhower	1953-64: Nikita Khrushchev
1961-63: John F Kennedy	1964-82: Leonid Brezhnev
1963-69: Lyndon Baines Johnson	Nov 1982-Feb 1984: Yuri Andropov
1969-74: Richard Nixon	Feb 1984-Mar 1985: Konstantin Chernenko
1974-77: Gerald Ford	1985-91: Mikhail Gorbachev
1977-81: Jimmy Carter	
1981-89: Ronald Reagan	
1989-93: George H W Bush	

Example Exam Questions

Section 4: How did the Cold War develop? 1943-56

Specimen Paper 2009

The photograph below shows Churchill, Truman and Stalin shaking hands at the Potsdam Conference, July 1945.



This question is about the development of the Cold War.

4 Answer Part (a), EITHER Part (b)(i) OR Part (b)(ii) AND then Part (c).

(a) Describe **one** decision that was made about Germany at the Potsdam Conference (July-August 1945). **(2 marks)**

(b) (i) Briefly explain the key features of the Truman Doctrine (1947). **(6 marks)**

OR

(b) (ii) Briefly explain the key features of the Marshall Plan (1947). **(6 marks)**

(c) Explain why relations between the USA and the Soviet Union grew worse in the years 1943-56. **(12 marks)**

June 2009

Section 5: Three Cold War crises: Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia, c.1957-69

Specimen Paper 2009

The photograph below shows the U.S. destroyer Barry alongside the Soviet freighter Ansov during the USA's naval blockade of Cuba.

This question is about flashpoints in the Cold War.

5 Answer Part (a), EITHER Part (b)(i) OR Part (b)(ii) AND then Part (c).

(a) Describe **one** reaction of the USA to the placing of Soviet missiles in Cuba. **(2 marks)**



EITHER

(b) (i) Briefly explain the key features of the Berlin Crisis (1961). **(6 marks)**

OR

(b) (ii) Briefly explain the key features of the 'Prague Spring' in Czechoslovakia (1968). **(6 marks)**

Answer Question 5(c).

(c) Explain why relations between the USA and the Soviet Union changed in the years 1962-69. **(12 marks)**

June 2009

Section 6: Why did the Cold War end? The invasion of Afghanistan (1979) to the collapse of the Soviet Union (1991)

Specimen paper 2009

The photograph below shows Soviet tanks moving into Afghanistan in early 1980.



This question is about the Cold War after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

6) Answer Part (a), EITHER Part (b)(i) OR Part (b)(ii) AND then Part (c).

(a) Describe **one** cause of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. **(2 marks)**

EITHER

(b) (i) Briefly explain the key features of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979). **(6 marks)**

OR

(b) (ii) Briefly explain the key features of 'the Second Cold War'. **(6 marks)**

(c) Explain why relations between the USA and the Soviet Union changed in the years

1985-89. (12 marks)

June 2009

