



Year 11 History: Edexcel Paper 2

Superpower Relations Unit 1: Origins of the Cold War 1941-58

Ad Astra

How does this unit link to prior learning?

Year 7 Power and control in Medieval society	Year 8 Imperialism and democracy	Year 9 Conflict in 20th century and proxy wars	Year 10 Consequences and importance of medical developments
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What will you be learning about?

This is the second half of your paper two; you will sit it alongside Early Elizabethan England. You will focus on the origins of the Cold War. What causes two great allies to fall out and enter a new conflict so soon after the end of WWII? You will examine the impact of USA's decision to drop the bomb on Japan and focus on key flashpoints such as the Berlin Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Key Focus

Your ability to explain how a sequence of different events link together, you will do this through three question types; consequences, narrative account and importance.

We will develop our learning by studying the following each week:

	RAG		RAG
1. Grand Alliance and Tehran Conference 1943. 2. Importance of Yalta and Potsdam Conference of 1945. 3. Assessment: Consequences style question. 4. Mock Exam prep; Medicine and Germany 5. Impact of the Atomic bomb and Telegrams on relations. 6. Iron curtain and Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe.		7. Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan 8. Cominform and Comecon. 9. Assessment: Importance question. 10. Cause of the Berlin Blockade. 11. Berlin Airlift and consequences. 12. NATO and Warsaw Pact. 13. <i>Assessment – narrative of the Berlin airlift</i> 14. Hungarian Uprising 1956	

How will this unit help you in the future?

Year 11

Weimar and Nazi Germany – you will be use your skills of explanation to explain the reasons why a number of key events happened. You will also be able to explain how a sequence of events link together.

<p>Grand Alliance and Tehran Conference 1943. Allies – two or more countries that promise to work together and protect each other.</p> <p>Superpower - A highly influential nation with global political and military strength.</p> <p>Cold War - Tense rivalry between the USA and USSR, without direct fighting..</p> <p>Alliance - An agreement between countries to support each other militarily.</p> <p>United Nations - International organization promoting global peace, security, and cooperation.</p> <p>Grand Alliance: Agreement between GB, USA and USSR to help defeat Germany.</p> <p>Conference: Meeting</p> <p>Tehran: City in Iran where the first meeting of the Grand Alliance took place in 1943</p>	<p>Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan</p> <p>Congress - The legislative branch of the U.S. government.</p> <p>Containment - U.S. policy to prevent the spread of communism.</p> <p>Doctrine - A stated principle guiding government policies.</p> <p>Marshall Plan - U.S. economic aid program to rebuild Europe post-WWII.</p>
<p>Importance of Yalta and Potsdam Conference of 1945.</p> <p>Sphere of Influence - Area where one superpower dominates politically or economically.</p> <p>Reparations - Compensation paid by a defeated country after a war.</p> <p>Communism: Political and economic idea based on sharing of wealth and property. Popular in Eastern Europe.</p> <p>Capitalism: Political and economic idea based on making profit and individual wealth.</p>	<p>Cominform 1947 and Comecon 1949.</p> <p>COMINFORM - Soviet organization coordinating communist parties across Europe.</p> <p>COMECON - Soviet-led economic organization for communist countries.</p> <p>Dollar Imperialism- term by Stalin to criticise the Marshall Plan.</p>
<p>Impact of the Atomic bomb and Telegrams on relations.</p> <p>Atomic Bomb - A powerful nuclear weapon causing massive destruction and radiation.</p> <p>Diplomat - A representative who negotiates between countries.</p> <p>Telegram - A brief, official message sent between governments.</p> <p>Long Telegram 1946- Sent from the US diplomat in the Moscow George Kennan, warning of the Soviet threat.</p> <p>Novikov Telegram 1946 - sent from soviet diplomat , Novikov, warning Stalin of the US threat to the USSR.</p> <p>Mutually Assured Destruction - The idea that nuclear war ensures total destruction for both.</p> <p>Hydrogen Bomb: nuclear weapon that was more powerful than the atomic bomb.</p> <p>Arms race: Competition between sides to build the biggest and most advanced weapons.</p>	<p>Berlin Blockade and Airlift 1948-49</p> <p>Blockade - Restriction on entry or exit to an area or country.</p> <p>Operation Vittles- codename for the Berlin Airlift to bring supplies into West Berlin from June 1948 to September 1949.</p> <p>Deutschmark- New currency introduced in the Western Sectors of Berlin.</p> <p>FRG- Federal Republic of Germany was established in May 1949, also known as West Germany.</p> <p>GDR: German Democratic Republic established October 1949, also known as East Germany.</p>
<p>Iron curtain and Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe.</p> <p>Satellite state - A country heavily controlled by a more powerful nation.</p> <p>Eastern Bloc- term for countries in Eastern Europe which were under the influence of the USSR.</p> <p>Red Army- Name for the USSR's army which occupied Eastern Europe at the end of WWII.</p> <p>Buffer Zone: Land between a country and its potential enemies to protect the country.</p>	<p>NATO 1949 and Warsaw Pact 1955</p> <p>NATO - Military alliance formed to counter Soviet threat in Europe in 1949.</p> <p>Warsaw Pact - Military alliance of USSR and Eastern European countries established in 1955.</p>
<p>Hungarian Uprising 1956</p> <p>Uprising: Protest or rebellion.</p> <p>Khrushchev: New leader of USSR 1953.</p> <p>Destalinisation: belief that Khrushchev would take a softer approach with satellite states and undo some of Stalin's unpopular policies.</p> <p>Rakosi: unpopular leader of Hungary at the start of 1956.</p> <p>Imre Nagy: New leader of Hungary who proposed reforms and greater freedoms.</p>	

Year	Event	Description
1941	Grand Alliance formed	USA, USSR, and Britain unite to defeat Nazi Germany.
1943	Tehran Conference	Allies agree on plans to defeat Germany and discuss post-war Europe.
1945 (Feb)	Yalta Conference	Leaders agree to divide Germany and hold free elections in Eastern Europe.
1945 (May)	End of WWII in Europe	Germany surrenders; tensions begin to rise between USA and USSR.
1945 (July)	Potsdam Conference	Disagreements over Germany and Eastern Europe emerge; Truman replaces Roosevelt.
1946 (Feb)	Long Telegram	U.S. diplomat Kennan warns of Soviet expansionism—leads to containment policy.
1946 (Sept)	Novikov Telegram	Soviet response accusing the USA of seeking world domination.
1947 (March)	Truman Doctrine	U.S. pledges to support countries resisting communism—start of containment.
1947 (June)	Marshall Plan	U.S. economic aid to rebuild Europe and prevent spread of communism.
1947 (Oct)	Cominform created	USSR establishes Communist Information Bureau to control Eastern Europe.
1948 (June)	Berlin Blockade begins	USSR blocks Western access to Berlin to force Allies out.
1949 (May)	Berlin Airlift ends	Western Allies successfully supply West Berlin by air—Soviet blockade fails.
1949 (April)	NATO formed	Western military alliance to counter Soviet threat.
1949 (Jan)	Comecon created	USSR's economic alliance to rival Marshall Plan.
1953	Stalin dies	Leads to a temporary thaw in Cold War tensions.
1955 (May)	Warsaw Pact formed	Soviet military alliance in response to NATO.
1956	Hungarian Uprising	Revolt against Soviet control crushed by USSR—shows limits of de-Stalinisation.