Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
GCSE (9-1) History

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History (1HI0)
Introduction

This document provides a sample outline scheme of work for Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91. This is intended as an example approach only and is not prescriptive: it should be adapted by schools to fit their timetabling and staffing arrangements.

The scheme assumes 12 teaching weeks for the Period study.

The separate Course planner document provides a range of examples of delivery options that can be used for planning alongside this document.

The separate Topic booklet for Option 26/27 includes illustrative exemplification of content.

In adapting this scheme of work, teachers might find it useful to consider the following:

- What, and how much, background and contextual material needs to be covered as an introduction and overview before starting the main specification content.
- The focus of the question types in the assessment of the Period study:
  - Explain two consequences of...
  - Write a narrative account analysing...
  - Explain the importance of x for y...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Specification content</th>
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| 1    | *Introduction. Background to and overview of The Cold War, 1941–91*

**Key topic 1.1 Early tension between East and West**
- The Grand Alliance. The outcomes of the Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences.
- The ideological differences between the superpowers and the attitudes of Stalin, Truman and Churchill.

| 2    | ● The impact on US-Soviet relations of the development of the atomic bomb, the Long and Novikov telegrams and the creation of Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe.

**Key topic 1.2 The development of the Cold War**
- The significance of Cominform (1947), Comecon (1949) and the formation of NATO (1949).

| 3    | ● Berlin: its division into zones. The Berlin Crisis (blockade and airlift) and its impact. The formation of the Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic.

**Key topic 1.3 The Cold War intensifies**
- The significance of the arms race and the formation of the Warsaw Pact.

| 4    | ● Events in 1956 leading to the Hungarian Uprising, and Khrushchev’s response.
- The international reaction to the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

| 5    | **Key topics 2.1–2.3 Cold War crises, 1958–70 (Berlin, Cuba, Czechoslovakia)**
- The refugee problem in Berlin, Khrushchev’s Berlin ultimatum (1958), and the summit meetings of 1959–61.

| 6    | ● Soviet relations with Cuba, the Cuban Revolution and the refusal of the USA to recognise Castro’s government. The significance of the Bay of Pigs incident.
- The events of the Cuban Missile Crisis.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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| 7    | ● The consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis: the ‘hotline’, the Limited Test Ban Treaty 1963, the Outer Space Treaty 1967, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 1968.  
      | ● Opposition in Czechoslovakia to Soviet control: the Prague Spring. |
| 8    | ● The Brezhnev Doctrine and the re-establishment of Soviet control in Czechoslovakia.  
      | ● International reaction to Soviet measures in Czechoslovakia. |
| 9    | **Key topic 3.1 Attempts to reduce tension between East and West**  
      | ● Détente in the 1970s, SALT 1, Helsinki, SALT 2.  
      | ● The significance of Reagan and Gorbachev’s changing attitudes.  
| 10   | **Key topic 3.2 Flashpoints**  
      | ● The significance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Carter Doctrine and the Olympic boycotts.  
      | ● Reagan and the ‘Second Cold War’, the Strategic Defence Initiative. |
| 11   | **Key topic 3.3 The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe**  
      | ● The impact of Gorbachev’s ‘new thinking’ in Eastern Europe: the loosening Soviet grip on Eastern Europe.  
      | ● The significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall.  
      | ● The collapse of the Soviet Union and its significance in bringing about the end of the Warsaw Pact. |
| 12   | ● *Review and assessment of the Cold War, 1941–91.* |