

Option 26/27 scheme of work



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...

Week	Specification content
1	<p><i>Introduction. Background to and overview of The Cold War, 1941–91</i></p> <p>Key topic 1.1 Early tension between East and West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Key topic 1.2 The development of the Cold War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact on US-Soviet relations of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, 1947. • The significance of Cominform (1947), Comecon (1949) and the formation of NATO (1949).
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Key topic 1.3 The Cold War intensifies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of the arms race and the formation of the Warsaw Pact.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events in 1956 leading to the Hungarian Uprising, and Khrushchev’s response. • The international reaction to the Soviet invasion of Hungary.
5	<p>Key topics 2.1-2.3 Cold War crises, 1958–70 (Berlin, Cuba, Czechoslovakia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The refugee problem in Berlin, Khrushchev’s Berlin ultimatum (1958), and the summit meetings of 1959–61. • The construction of the Berlin Wall, 1961. • Impact of the construction of the Berlin Wall on US-Soviet relations. Kennedy’s visit to Berlin in 1963.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Week	Specification content
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brezhnev Doctrine and the re-establishment of Soviet control in Czechoslovakia. • International reaction to Soviet measures in Czechoslovakia.
9	<p>Key topic 3.1 Attempts to reduce tension between East and West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Détente in the 1970s, SALT 1, Helsinki, SALT 2. • The significance of Reagan and Gorbachev's changing attitudes. • Gorbachev's 'new thinking' and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty 1987.
10	<p>Key topic 3. 2 Flashpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Key topic 3.3 The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review and assessment of the Cold War, 1941–91.</i>