

Activity 4 – Analytical narrative (Paper 2 question 2)

‘Write a narrative account analysing...’

This example focuses on the ‘Berlin Crisis, 1948 – 49’.

The timeline on the Berlin Crisis is from:

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/airlift-berlin/>

The full timeline has many events, but below a few are extracted.

1. Suggest strategies for helping students **select** 5–8 events from it in order to analyse ‘the key events of the Berlin Crisis, 1948–49’ as in the SAMs.
2. Suggest ways of helping students to **link** a sequence of events in order to *analyse* and not simply rehearse a list of events.

Timeline: Berlin Crisis 1948 – ‘49

- **5 June 1947** | US Secretary of State (and former General) Marshall announces a comprehensive programme of US assistance to any European countries wanting to participate, including the Soviet Union and those of Eastern Europe. Named the European Recovery Program, it soon becomes better known as the Marshall Plan.
- **June–July 1947** | Stalin and Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov feel the US plan will undermine their efforts to bring the Eastern bloc under Soviet control. Molotov calls the US plan “dollar imperialism.”
- **18 June 1948** | The United States, Britain and France announce that on 21 June a new German currency (the *Deutsche Mark*) will be introduced in the Western zones.
- **21 June 1948** | Stalin considers the new currency a provocation. Soviet guards halt all freight, passenger trains and traffic to West Berlin.
- **22 June 1948** | The Soviets announce the introduction of a new currency in their zone. It will be known as the *Ostmark* (East mark).
- **24 June 1948** | The Soviets block all rail, road, and water access from the Western zones to Berlin. The next day, the Soviets declare they will not send any supplies to West Berlin, which has only enough food for 36 days and coal for 45 days. The Soviets also cut off electricity supplies to West Berlin from the Eastern zone.
- **26 June 1948** | The Berlin Airlift begins with 32 flights by US aircraft from West Germany to West Berlin. The Germans call the US and British efforts to supply West Berlin’s 2.5 million people the “Air Bridge.”
- **5 August 1948** | The French begin constructing a new Berlin airport, Tegel, in the French sector. The heavy equipment needed for its construction is dismantled and flown into the city in sections.

- **12 August 1948** | US and British aircraft conduct 707 flights into West Berlin. By September US planes are delivering nearly 7,000 tons of supplies a day to West Berlin.
- **30 November 1948** | The Soviets set up their own Berlin city government in the East.
- **31 March 1949** | A new monthly record of nearly 200,000 tons of supplies is set.
- **25 April 1949** | The Soviet news agency TASS reports a willingness by the Soviets to lift the blockade.
- **12 May 1949** | At one minute after midnight, the Soviets restore land access from West Germany to Berlin. The first train from the West reaches West Berlin that morning.
- **23 May 1949** | The Federal Republic of Germany is established from the Western zones of occupation.
- **7 October 1949** | The Soviets respond to the creation of the Federal Republic of Germany by announcing their own German Democratic Republic in the East.