

GCSE History

Paper 2 Period Study Overview



Who are we?



Sam Slater
Subject Specialist
Pearson Edexcel

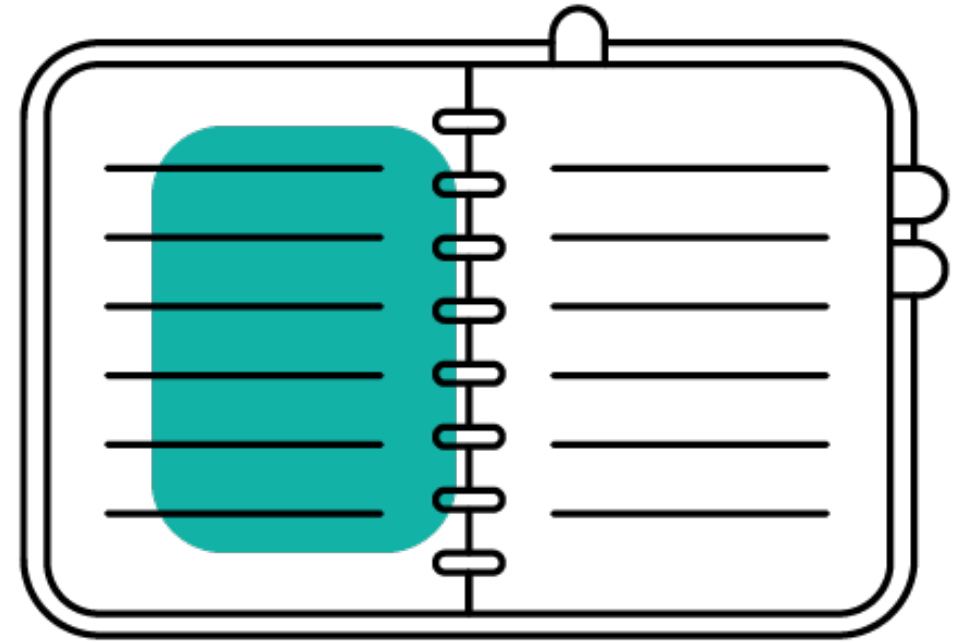


Katie Matthews
Deputy Lead History and Senior
Consultant, Harris Federation

What are we going to cover?

In this session we are going to look at:

- What does the Paper 2 Period Study look like?
- How can you do well on this paper?



Paper 2 overview: Two booklets

1 hr 50 mins (ET: 2 hr 17.5 mins) 64 marks

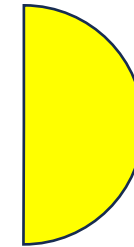
Period study 32 marks 50%

Period studies involve examining historical events within a specific timeframe. They focus on how developments or a sequence of events are connected through the overall narrative of the period.

British depth study 32 marks 50%

Depth studies focus on a short time period and require you to understand the complexity of a society or historical situation in British history.

20% of your GCSE



1/2 of this exam
about 55 mins
(ET: about 68mins)

20% of your GCSE



1/2 of this exam
about 55 mins
(ET: about 68mins)

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1)
Spring 2024
1H10/P4
History
BOOKLET P4: Superpower relations and the Cold War
1941-91

- Instructions**
- Use black ink or ball-point pen.
 - Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your centre number and candidate number.
 - There are seven questions in this question paper. This booklet contains questions 1-4.
 - Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
 - Check you have the correct number of spaces provided.
 - Answer the questions in the spaces provided.
 - There may be more space than you need.
- Information**
- The total mark for this booklet is 52.
 - The total time for both questions is 1 hour 45 minutes.
 - The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
 - You may use a calculator for this question.
 - Do not forget to complete booklet 5.
- Advice**
- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
 - Try to divide your time equally between each booklet.
 - Check your answers if you have time at the end.



P72344A

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1)
Spring 2024
1H10/P4
History
BOOKLET P4: Superpower relations and the Cold War
1941-91

- Instructions**
- Use black ink or ball-point pen.
 - Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your centre number and candidate number.
 - There are seven questions in this question paper. This booklet contains questions 5-7.
 - Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
 - Check you have the correct number of spaces provided.
 - Answer the questions in the spaces provided.
 - There may be more space than you need.
- Information**
- The total mark for this booklet is 52.
 - The total time for both questions is 1 hour 45 minutes.
 - The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
 - You may use a calculator for this question.
 - Do not forget to complete booklet 4.
- Advice**
- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
 - Try to divide your time equally between each booklet.
 - Check your answers if you have time at the end.
 - You do not need to complete this page with your answers.



P63752A

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1)
Spring 2024
1H10/B4
History
BOOKLET B4: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-8

- Instructions**
- Use black ink or ball-point pen.
 - Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your centre number and candidate number.
 - There are seven questions in this question paper. This booklet contains questions 1-4.
 - Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
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 - Check your answers if you have time at the end.
 - You do not need to complete this page with your answers.



P72344A

Paper 2 Period Study: Which option are you studying?

P1: Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555

P2: British America, 1713–1783: empire and revolution

P3: The American West, c1835–c1895

P4: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

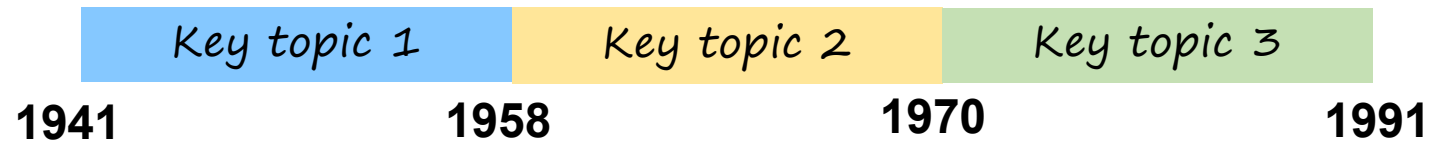
P5: Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95

The period study is a chance to look at the history of at least 50 years.

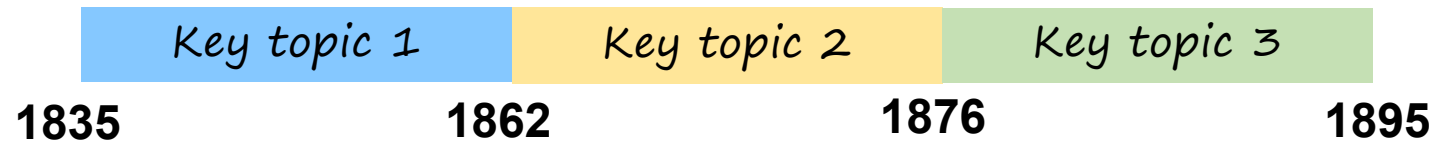
It is a chance to understand the unfolding narrative of key developments and and issues of the period.

Why is the chronology so important?

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–1991

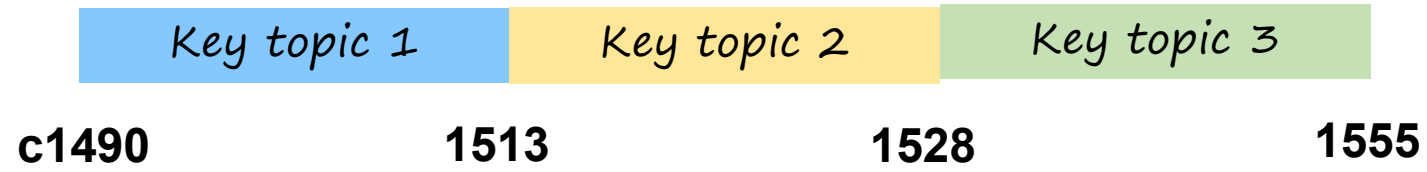


The American West, c1835–c1895

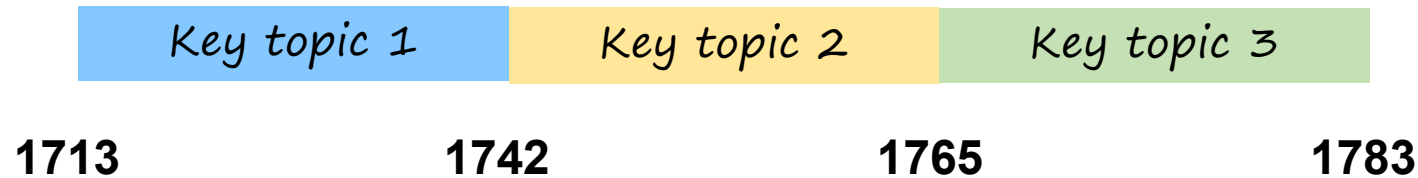


Why is the chronology so important?

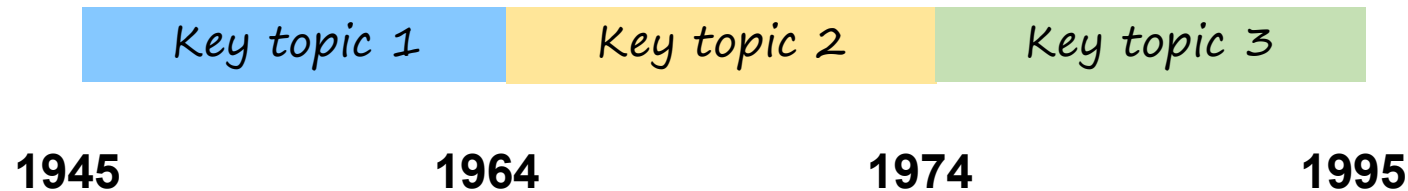
Spain and the 'New World', c1490-1555



British America, 1713-83: empire and revolution

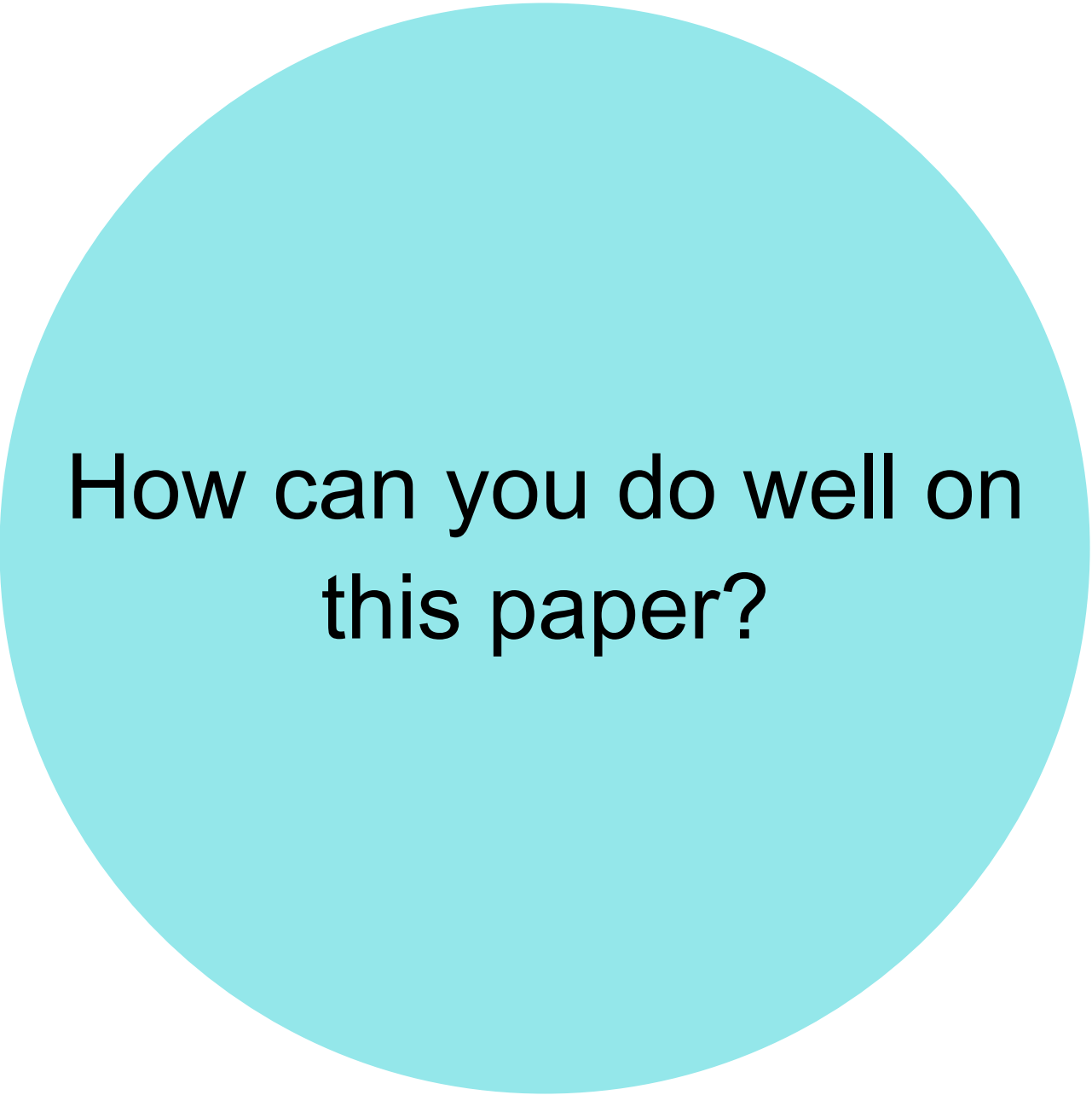


Conflict in the Middle East, 1945-1995



Paper 2 Period Study Overview: What are the questions?

Question		Marks
Period Study		
Q1a	Explain one consequence of...	4
Q1b	Explain one consequence of...	4
Q2	Write a narrative account analysing ...	8
Q3	Explain two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of ... for ...• The importance of ... for ...• The importance of ... for ...	8+8 = 16

A large, solid light blue circle is centered on a white background. Inside the circle, the text "How can you do well on this paper?" is written in a black, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and vertically.

How can you do well on
this paper?

Know your stuff!

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Use the specification to know what you need to revise.

Make sure you revise everything, don't skip topics.

Key topic 1: The origins of the Cold War, 1941–58

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.
- 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.

2 The development of the Cold War

- 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).
- Berlin: its division into zones. The Berlin Crisis (blockade and airlift) of 1948–49 and its impact. The formation of the Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic.

3 The Cold War intensifies

- The significance of the arms race. The formation of the Warsaw Pact.
- Events in 1956 leading to the Hungarian Uprising, and Khrushchev's response.
- The international reaction to the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

Creation of NATO



- 1949
- Intended to secure Western nations against military threat after Berlin Blockade
- Consequences:
 - USA could place missiles in allied NATO territory
 - USSR felt threatened by NATO

Know your stuff!

Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)

Cause(s):

Details:

Results:

Stono Rebellion (1739)

Cause(s):

Details:

Results:

Fort Laramie Treaty (1851)

Cause(s):

Details:

Results:

Suez Crisis (1956)

Cause(s):

Details:

Results:

Know your stuff!

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) History: The American West, c1835–c1895

Key topic 2: Development of the Plains, c1862–c1876 > Ranching and the cattle industry

The changing role of the cowboy

The changing role of the cowboy

1. Draw lines to match the groups on the left to their roles on the right.

A. Cowboy
B. Cattle
C. Trail boss
D. Cow town
E. Herd
F. Chuck wagon

i. The leader of a group of cowboys on a long drive
ii. A group of cattle.
iii. A general term for cows.
iv. A trailer which carried water, food and equipment on the long drive.
v. A town on the railroad where cowboys would load the cattle for transport.
vi. A cattle herder who rode on horseback.

2. Complete this concept map with examples of dangers that cowboys faced whilst driving cattle.

Stampeding cattle

Dangers on the long drive

Knowledge booster quizzes:

The American West, c1835-c1895

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Have secure chronological understanding

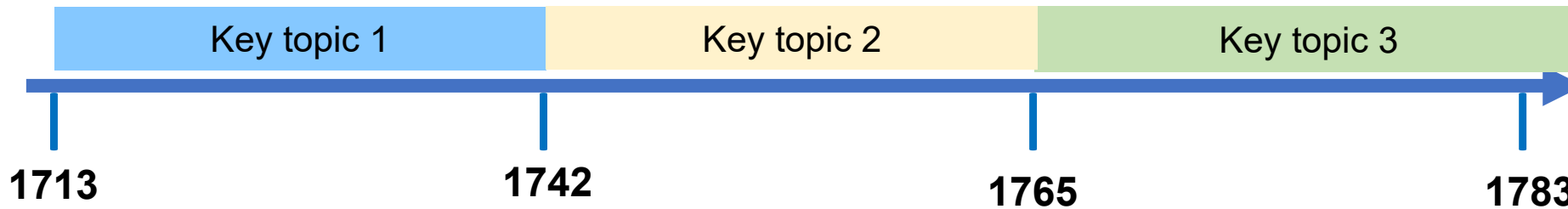
British America, 1713-1783: empire and revolution

**Boston
Massacre**

Piracy Act

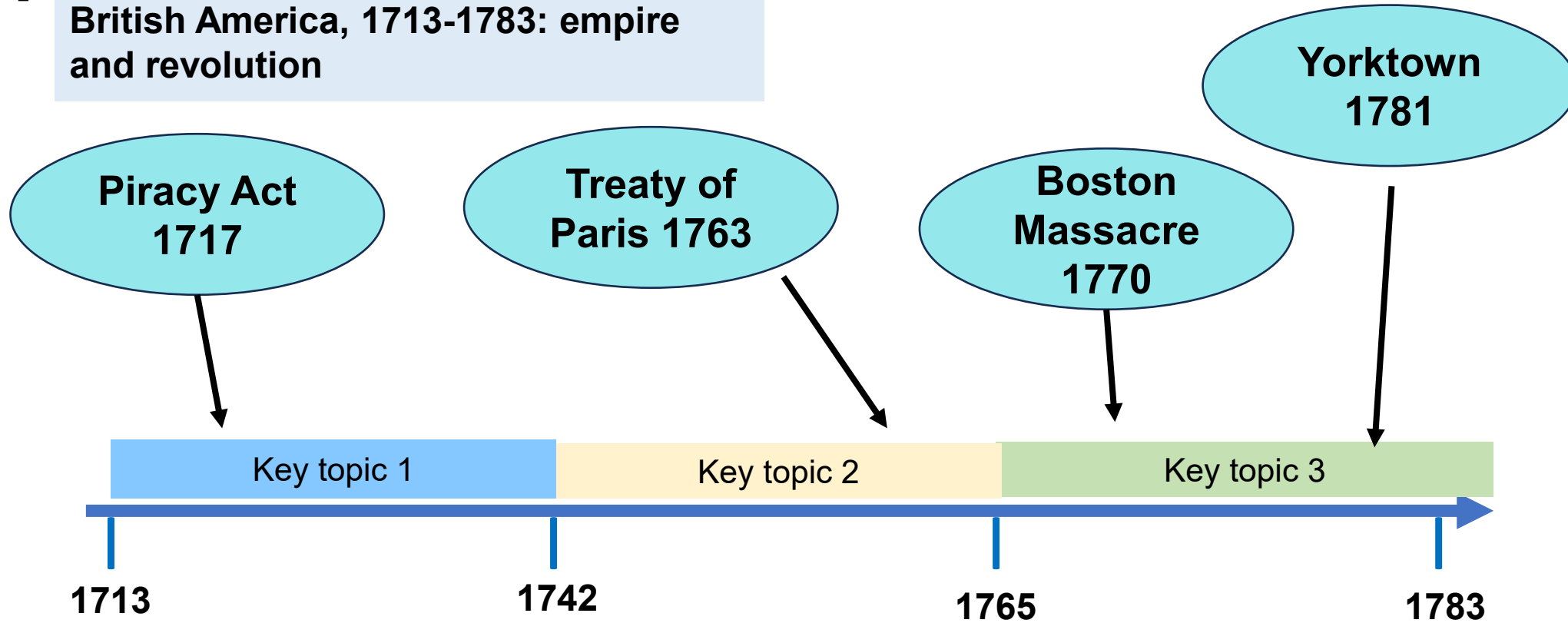
**Treaty of
Paris**

**Battle of
Yorktown**



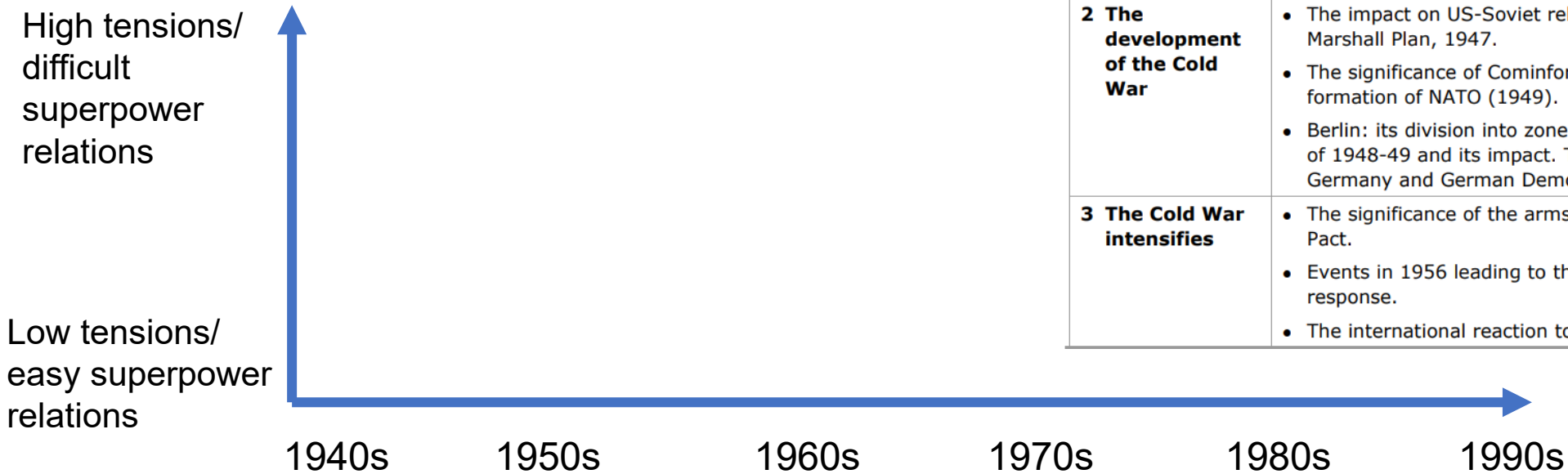
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British America, 1713-1783: empire and revolution



Consider the narrative and development of topics

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91



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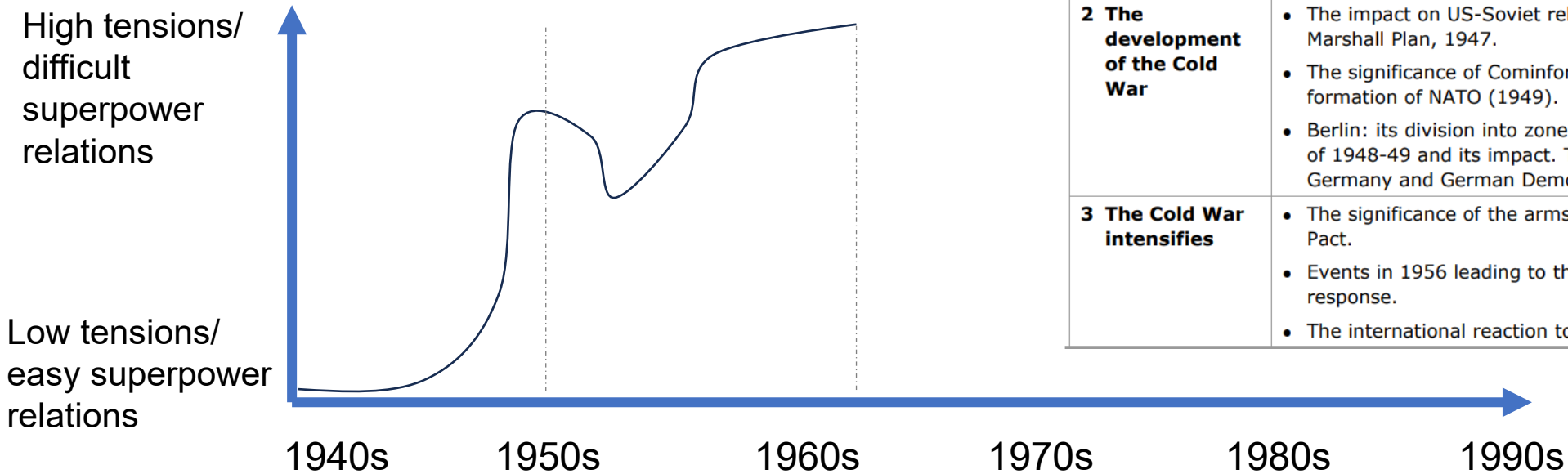
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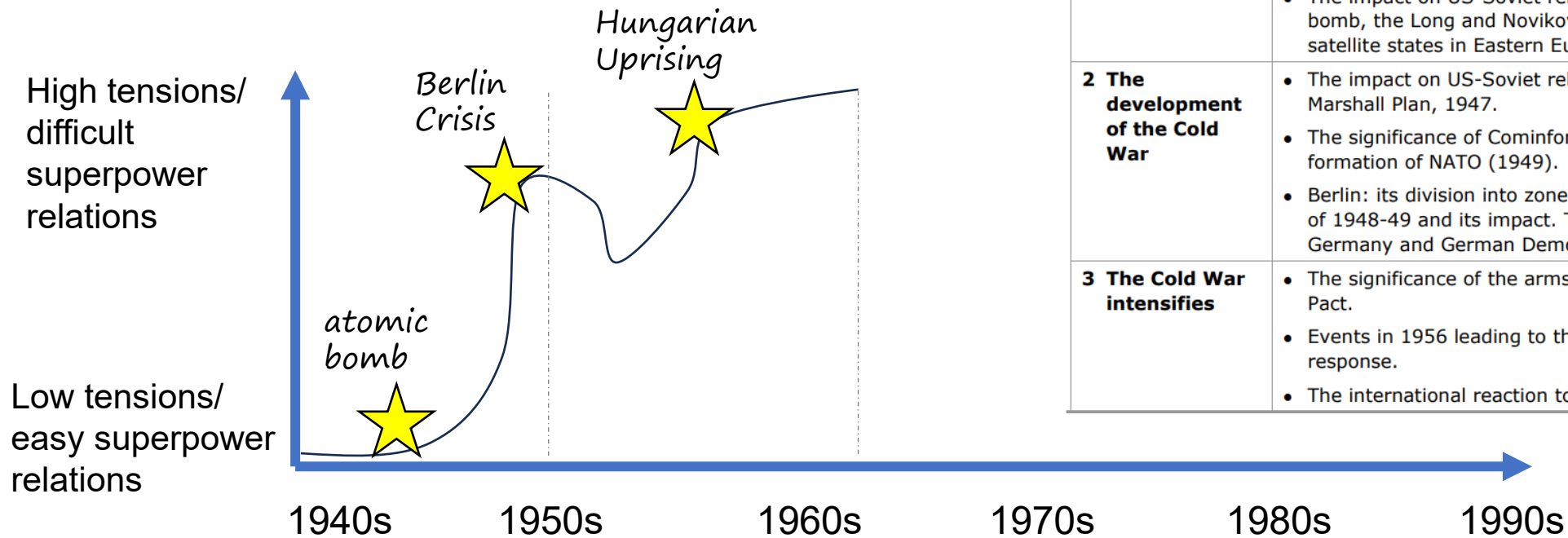
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Use past exam questions

- 2 Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which the cattle industry changed in the years c1876–c1890.

(8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- overstocking
- winter of 1886–87

You **must** also use information of your own.

Beginning – overstocking
Middle – winter of 1886–87
End – end of the open range

Use past exam questions

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- 2 Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which the cattle industry changed in the years ~~c1876–c1890.~~

1862–1876

(8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- overstocking
- winter of 1886–87

You **must** also use information of your own.

Use past exam questions

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the ~~Gold Rush (1849)~~ for migration to the West.

(8)

... the Oregon Trail

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the ~~Gold Rush (1849)~~ for ~~migration to~~ the West.


(8)


*... the Homestead Act
(1862)*

... settlement of ...

Other revision tips



 Pearson
Edexcel



Top revision tips for students: Summer 2025 onwards

Introduction

With the summer exam series just around the corner, these are some useful revision tips for Pearson Edexcel GCSE History students, covering aspects of assessment that some students struggle to get to grips with.

We've made some small changes to the assessment model, starting in Summer 2025.

- **Extra time on each paper:** you will be given an extra 5 mins on Paper 1, 5 mins on Paper 2, and 10 mins on Paper 3. Use the extra time in the exam hall to think and plan your answers – you aren't expected to write more!
- **Splitting up opening questions:** on Paper 1 and Paper 2B, you will now be asked to describe **one** key feature each of two separate topics, and on Paper 2P, you will now be asked to explain **one** consequence each of two separate events or developments.
- **Choice of explain why questions on Paper 3:** you will now have a choice of two questions for Paper 3 Q2 Explain why.
- **Renumbering on Paper 2B:** the question numbering will now be Q1a, Q1b, Q2, Q3/4. (This is a tidying-up exercise.)
- **Language amendments:** we've changed a few terms which are considered outdated and problematic. Only a few options are affected: the main changes are from 'Plains Indians' to 'Indigenous peoples', and from 'slaves' to 'enslaved people'. We will gloss the term 'Indigenous peoples' on any questions where it appears, to remind you that we previously used the term 'Plains Indians'. The American West is the option most affected – check with your teacher if you're unsure.

Make sure you know your stuff!

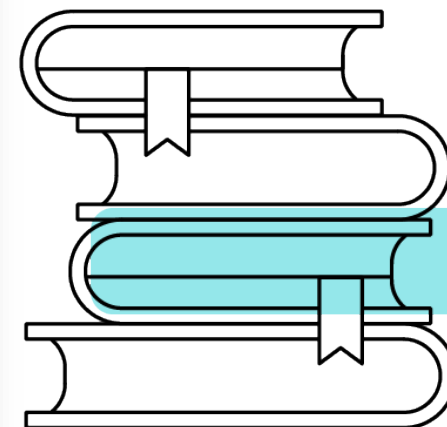
70% of the marks on your GCSE History exams are for knowledge and understanding so it's important that you know your topics well. Evidence shows that increased confidence in using and applying knowledge helps students to tackle questions in exams. Try creating revision flash cards and mind maps to help you to understand and memorise content and make sure familiarise yourself with key words from the specification and textbooks.

If you find part of a topic complicated, try talking it through with someone else, like a friend or member of your family. You could even give them a copy of the textbook or revision guide and get them to ask you some questions in the process. This will help ensure you have a confident grasp of the content. Another idea for challenging content is to read around the topic so don't just rely on your class notes – try reading a history website, watch a YouTube video or listen to a podcast.

When revising content try to think about it in terms of the questions you will be asked on that paper. For example, on the Paper 2 period study a lot of the question types focus on consequence or importance, so you need to be able to think about and explain the content on this paper in that way.

Dates and chronology are important

Try to understand the correct dates and order in which things happened – you can do this by creating basic timelines. In the Paper 1 thematic studies you need to have a good understanding of the terminology of the different time periods in history such as early modern, renaissance, modern etc. When answering a question in the exam pay close attention to any dates in the question – you need to make sure your response stays within the correct dates because you can't get any credit from examiners for content which is outside of these. Many students lose valuable time in exams by spending too much time scene-setting or describing later events which are outside of the time frame of the question.





Pearson