

# GCSE History

## Paper 2 Period Study Question 2



## Question 2

Write a narrative account  
analysing...



## Q2: Write a narrative account analysing...

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events of 1519–21 that led to the Aztec surrender.

(8)

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

- Cortes's expedition (1519)
- the capture of Tenochtitlan (1521)

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

**Question 2 is focused on analytical narrative and a mix of concepts including causation, consequence, and change.** This means you should focus on the way in which events unfolded in a coherent order.



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**Question 2 is focused on analytical narrative and a mix of concepts including causation, consequence, and change.** This means you should focus on the way in which events unfolded in a coherent order.

- You will demonstrate an understanding that events do not occur in isolation but unfold as a consequence of what has gone before.
- It is worth 8 marks.
- You should spend around 12 mins (ET: 15 mins) answering this question.



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## Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555



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This is the topic – you must focus on the topic and the dates in your narrative.



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These stimulus points are designed to help you, they are useful sign posts...but you don't have to use them.

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Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555



# What is an analytical narrative?

This is a **narrative**...

I forgot to set  
my alarm.

I overslept.

I was late for  
school.

I had to rush  
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This is a **narrative**...

I forgot to set  
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I was late for  
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I had to rush  
to first  
lesson.

The events are in the right order.

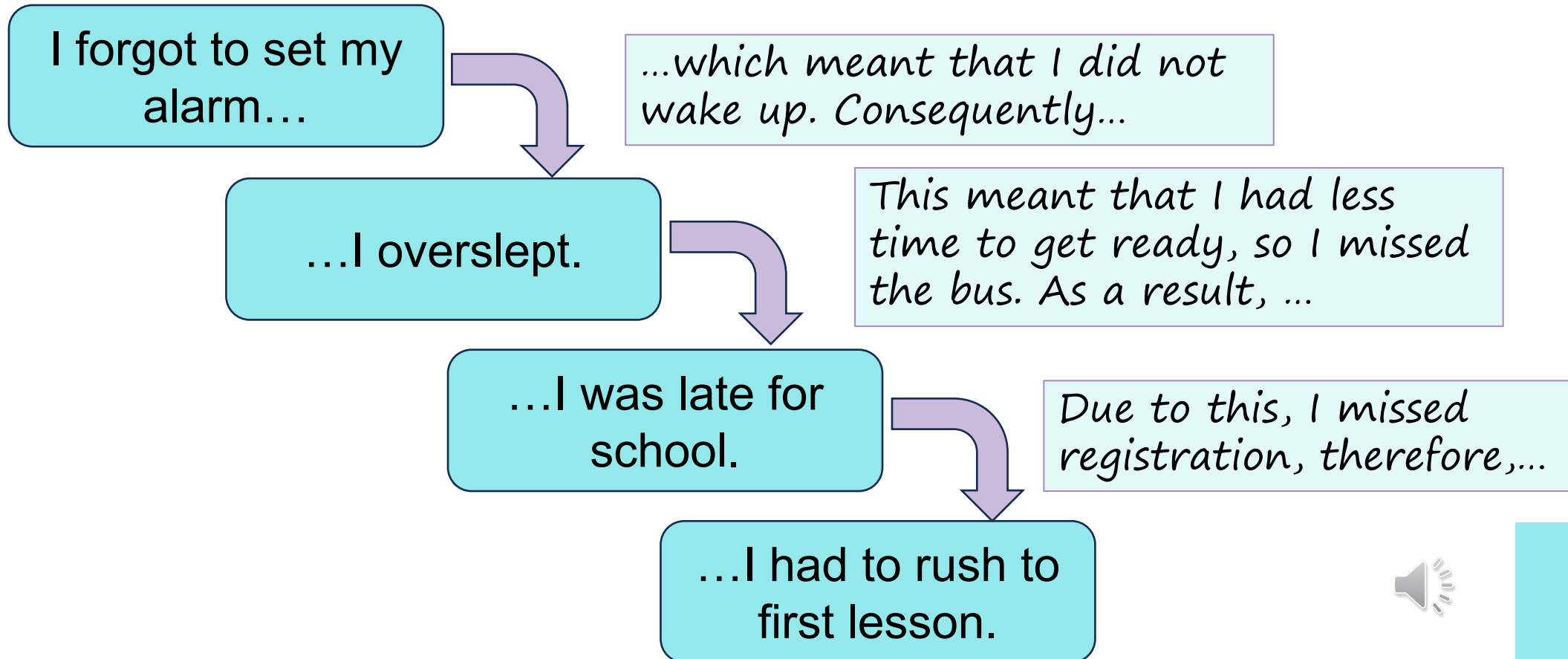
But it is not an **analytical narrative**.

What is missing? **The analytical links between the events.**



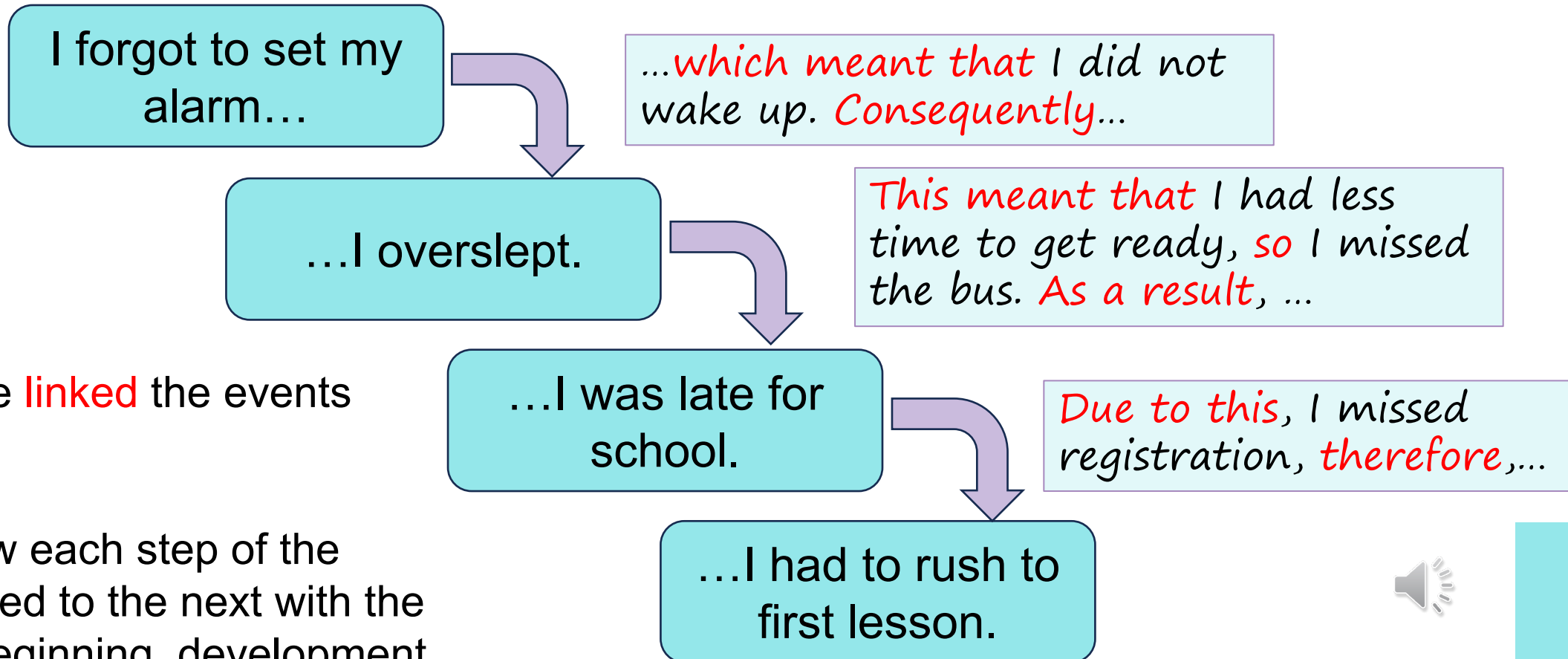
# What is an analytical narrative?

Let's turn it into an **analytical narrative**.



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Let's turn it into an **analytical narrative**.



Now we have **linked** the events together.

It is clear how each step of the narrative linked to the next with the sense of a beginning, development and end.



# How to answer the question

2 Write a narrative account analysing US-Soviet relations in the years 1945–47.

(8)

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

- Yalta Conference (February 1945)
- Cominform (1947)

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



Superpower relations and  
the Cold War, 1941–91

# How to answer the question

- 2 Write a narrative account analysing US-Soviet relations in the years 1945–47.

(8)

## Extract

Firstly, relations started positive with the Yalta Conference. The USSR and USA had agreed to both fight Germany as well as Japan together. This meant they had a common goal. However the US deployed the atomic bomb on Nagasaki and ~~in~~ Hiroshima in August 1945. This led to the beginning of the arms race as the Soviet Union felt intimidated by the sudden american display of power and ~~so~~ wanted to catch up.



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Nice signposting the beginning of the narrative and the start of the sequence.

There is clear linkage between the events.

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Nice signposting the beginning of the narrative and the start of the sequence.

There is clear linkage between the events.

Accurate and relevant information.

Coherent order...

Yalta -> atomic bombs  
-> arms race...

3 aspects of content

Superpower relations and  
the Cold War, 1941–91

# Questions for other options

Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555

- 2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events of 1519–21 that led to the Aztec surrender.

British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution

- 2 Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which piracy was suppressed in American waters in the years 1717–c1720.

The American West, c1835–c1895

- 2 Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which the cattle industry grew in the years 1865–74.

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

- 2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Berlin Crisis, 1948–49.

Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95

- 2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events of 1945–48 that led to the creation of Israel.



# What makes a good answer?

The examiner is looking for:

- That the events/developments in your narrative are linked showing a clear sequence.
- Accurate information is used showing knowledge and understanding relevant to the focus of the question.
- Three aspects of content covered.



# What makes a good answer?

The examiner is looking for:

- That the events/developments in your narrative are linked showing a clear sequence.
- Accurate information is used showing knowledge and understanding relevant to the focus of the question.
- Three aspects of content covered.
  - Make a brief plan before you begin, where does your narrative begin? How does it develop and what is the outcome? Think about these 3 aspects before writing.
  - The analysis required for higher marks tends to lead to language used like “*Consequently*” “*As a result*” “*this led to*”
  - Keep within the date range.
  - Don’t leave it blank.





Pearson

