

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

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

1 Early tension between East and West	<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. • 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	<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). • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Key topic 2: Cold War crises, 1958–70

1 Increased tension between East and West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The refugee problem in Berlin, Khrushchev's Berlin ultimatum (1958), and the summit meetings of 1959–61. • <u>The impact of the Cuban Revolution on relations with the USA and the Soviet Union, including Soviet relations with Cuba, the Cuban Revolution and the refusal of the USA to recognise Castro's government <u>and the closer relations with the Soviet Union</u></u>. The significance of the Bay of Pigs incident. • Opposition in Czechoslovakia to Soviet control: the Prague Spring.
2 Cold War crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of the Berlin Wall, 1961. • The events of the Cuban Missile Crisis. • The Brezhnev Doctrine and the re-establishment of Soviet control in Czechoslovakia.
3 Reaction to crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of the construction of the Berlin Wall on US-Soviet relations. Kennedy's visit to West Berlin in 1963. • The consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis, including the 'hotline'. Attempts at arms control: the Limited Test Ban Treaty (1963); the Outer Space Treaty (1967); and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (1968). • International reaction to Soviet measures in Czechoslovakia.

Subtopic 1

The second bullet point has been reordered to be more logical and to provide more clarity of focus for teaching.

Key topic 3: The end of the Cold War, 1970–91

1 Attempts to reduce superpower tensions between East and West in the 1970s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Détente <u>and attempts to reduce tensions</u> in the 1970s. • <u>The significance of SALT 1, the Helsinki Accords</u>, and SALT 2. • The significance of Reagan and Gorbachev's changing attitudes. • Gorbachev's 'new thinking' and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty (1987).
2 The end of détente and the 'Second Cold War' Flashpoints	<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 (SDI). • <u>The significance of Reagan and Gorbachev in reducing tensions.</u>
3 The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe, 1985–91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' on 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.

Subtopic 1

Overall in Subtopics 1 and 2 the aim is to make them chronological. In Subtopic 1 we have:

1. amended the heading: it now includes '*the 1970s*' and is phrased in terms of '*superpowers*' instead of '*east and west*'.
2. split bp1 into two bps (with SALT 1 etc. in bp1), and added '*and attempts to reduce tensions*' to bp1. This emphasises that Détente was more than simply SALT 1, 2 and Helsinki.
3. added '*the significance of*' before SALT 1 (etc.) in bp2. This emphasises that the focus of learning is on what difference they made.
4. amended 'Helsinki' to 'the Helsinki Accords'.
5. moved '*the significance of Reagan's and Gorbachev's changing attitudes*' from bp2 to Subtopic 2.
6. removed bp3 (Gorbachev's new thinking and the INF Treaty) completely. This is implicit within the '*significance of Reagan/Gorbachev in reducing tensions*'. The INF may still be relevant to answers but does not need to be studied explicitly and will not form the basis of questions.

Subtopic 2

1. The subtopic heading has been amended to better reflect the content of the bullet points.
2. As noted above, Reagan and Gorbachev have moved here from Subtopic 1. This bullet point has also been re-phrased from '*changing attitudes*' to '*in reducing tensions*', which provides greater focus for teaching.
3. We have added the initials '*SDI*' in bp2 for clarity.

Subtopic 3

The dates 1985-91 have been added to the subtopic heading for clarity.