

Chosen Hill School
History Department

Edexcel

A Level History



Beginning your A Level Journey

Beginning Tasks and Initial Tasks

Beginning Tasks and Initial Tasks

Beginning A Level courses can be both exciting and daunting. To support your transition from Year 11 into the Sixth Form you will complete a range of tasks. These are designed to help you become more independent in your learning and to develop the skills needed for A Level History. The tasks are compulsory and you will be given feedback from your teachers.

We would also strongly advise you to bring an A4 ring binder, A4 lined paper and stationery to your first lesson.

Good Luck!

	Beginning Tasks	Outcome:	Completion date:
A	<p>What is the difference between Communism and Capitalism?</p> <p>Create a PowerPoint in your own words explaining the ideologies of Communism and Capitalism. It should be no more than 6 slides.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMycLVDAeD4</p>	<p>To develop an understanding of political ideology.</p> <p>To gain a sense of the relationship between east and west at the time of the Cold War.</p>	
B	<p>Part 1: Complete the Cold War Introductory Activity Pack</p> <p>Part 2: Complete the GDR and USSR Timeline Questions</p> <p>Part 3: Watch a Cold War/Russia film e.g. Goodbye Lenin, The Lives of Others, Deutschland 83 or 86, Empire of the Tsars- Romanovs episode 3. Produce 1 side film review.</p>	<p>To develop an understanding of the origins and early crises of the Cold War.</p> <p>To analyse the timeline of the GDR and USSR.</p> <p>To assess the fortunes of the GDR and USSR.</p>	

	Beginning Tasks	Outcome:	Completion date:
1	Flipped Learning: Reading to Prepare for a Discussion Lesson – GDR/USSR	Students read widely at home to participate in discussion.	
2	20 Mark Essay Question: How accurate is it to say that the permanent division of Germany into the FRG and GDR in 1949 was inevitable? [20]	20 Mark Essay	
3	20 Mark Source Analysis Task: The June 1953 Revolt	20 Mark Question	
4	20 Mark Secondary Extract task – assessments of Lenin	20 mark question based on Section C of Paper 1	
5	Spoken Presentation – USSR Focus – Who was the most important leader of the USSR - based on achievements, limitations and legacies	Students present 4-6 slide choice	

B: PART 1 Cold War Introductory Activity Pack

Complete the 'Now Try this Questions' on each page.

tension

The beginning of the Cold War

Before the Cold War Britain, the USA and the Soviet Union worked together as members of the Grand Alliance, which was created in 1941 to defeat Nazi Germany. The leaders of these countries met three times: at Tehran (1943), Yalta (1945) and Potsdam (1945).



Britain – a democracy led by Churchill – had been at war with Germany since 1939.



The USA – a democracy led by Roosevelt – had been at war with Germany and Japan since December 1941.



The Soviet Union – a communist one-party state led by Stalin – had been at war with Germany since 1941.

The Grand Alliance therefore was a 'marriage of convenience', in which three countries shared the aim of defeating their common enemy – Nazi Germany.

The Tehran Conference (November–December 1943)

- ✓ The USA and Britain agreed to open up a second front by invading Nazi-occupied Europe.
- ✓ The Soviet Union would declare war on Japan once Germany was defeated.
- ✓ The boundaries of Poland would be moved westwards; Poland would gain territory from Germany and lose it to the Soviet Union.
- ✓ It was also agreed that an international body would be set up to settle future disputes between countries. This set the scene for the establishment of the United Nations.

The Yalta Conference (February 1945)

- ✓ Germany, when defeated, would be reduced in size, divided and demilitarised. It would have to pay reparations.
- ✓ Europe would be rebuilt along the lines of the Atlantic Charter. Countries would have democratic elections.
- ✓ The UN (United Nations) would be set up.
- ✓ The Soviet Union would declare war on Japan once Germany was defeated.
- ✓ Poland would be in the 'Soviet sphere of influence' but run on a broader democratic basis.

The Potsdam Conference (July–August 1945)

- ✓ A Council of Foreign Ministers was set up to organise the rebuilding of Europe.
- ✓ The Nazi Party was banned and war criminals were to be prosecuted.
- ✓ Germany was to be reduced in size and divided into four zones of occupation run by Britain, France, the USA and the Soviet Union.
- ✓ Berlin was also to be divided up into zones of occupation.
- ✓ The Soviet Union was to receive 25% of the output from the other three occupied zones.

The outcomes of the conferences

Remember: while Britain, the USA and the Soviet Union were able to work together to defeat Germany, who had surrendered in May 1945, tension was increasing between the wartime allies. Differences were beginning to emerge over the future of Germany and Eastern Europe. Moreover, Roosevelt's death had led to Truman becoming president and he was much more distrustful of the Soviet Union.

Students often confuse what happened at these conferences. Make sure you know the differences and the similarities between them.

Now try this

- 1 Explain what was agreed at the Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam Conferences.
- 2 Draw up a timeline of the key events involving the Grand Alliance between November 1943 and July 1945.

Remember to get the events in the right order and to use detail.

The end of the Grand Alliance

Truman, Stalin and Churchill were the leaders of the USA, the Soviet Union and Britain when the war against Germany ended in 1945.

Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meeting in Yalta in 1945.

Europe should be democratic – a capitalist democracy. Roosevelt believed that democracy meant different political parties working to win voters' support in free elections.

What should happen to Germany? Germany should have to pay reparations, ensuring that it is never strong enough to start another war.

What should happen to Germany? Germany should be rebuilt.



Europe should be democratic – a communist democracy. Stalin believed that because only communism truly represented the workers, democracies could only be communist.

The USA was the first to build an atomic bomb, which gave it an unbeatable advantage (until 1949, when the Soviet Union caught up).

The Soviet Union didn't do what it said it would do in Poland: the government was supposed to include multiple political parties, but actually was only a communist democracy.

After Germany surrendered in May 1945, the Grand Alliance started to come to an end. Roosevelt was the key figure in holding the Alliance together. He believed that the United States could work with the Soviet Union after the war came to an end through the United Nations. His successor, Truman, was, like Churchill, more suspicious of the Soviet Union and this increased tension between the Allies.

The end of the Grand Alliance

The USA dropped atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945. This gave them a huge military advantage over other countries.

Roosevelt was prepared to work with Stalin but he died in April 1945 and was replaced by Truman.

Stalin disliked the way in which Truman had tried to push him around at Potsdam in 1945.

Truman trusted Stalin much less, as he had broken the promises he made over Poland at Yalta. He felt that, thanks to the atomic bomb, he could push Stalin around at the Potsdam Conference.

Increased tension between the superpowers and the start of the cold war.

Britain had finished on the winning side in 1945 but was economically exhausted by the war. It was therefore unable to stand up to the Soviet Union on its own and became only an ally of the United States. The Cold War therefore became increasingly about the relationship between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Now try this

- 1 Explain how Roosevelt's death increased tension between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- 2 The Soviet Union said communism could be democratic, too. What was the Western criticism of communist democracy?

The breakdown of trust

Without a common enemy to fight, tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union intensified. Neither side trusted the other due to ideological differences and the fact that the USA, unlike the Soviet Union, possessed nuclear weapons.

Ideology

Understanding ideology – a set of political ideas about how society should be run – is key to understanding the Cold War. The USA and the Soviet Union had opposing ideologies.

The USA, Britain and other capitalist countries

Said communism enslaved people to the state. Capitalism was based on freedom and democracy:

- Everyone should be free to make money for themselves.
- Individuals are better at deciding what to make/sell than the state.
- Trade between countries makes everyone richer.



The Soviet Union and other communist countries

Said capitalism exploited the workers to make the rich even richer. Communism was based on fairness:

- Capitalism only makes some people rich by exploiting everyone else.
- Individuals are not as strong as everyone working together for the same aim.
- The state should take control of the economy and run it to benefit everyone.

The Long Telegram (1946)

A secret report from the US ambassador Kennan in Moscow to President Truman said:

- the Soviet Union saw capitalism as a threat to communism that had to be destroyed
- the Soviet Union was building its military power
- peace between a communist Soviet Union and a capitalist USA was not possible.

Novikov's Telegram (1946)

A report from Novikov, Soviet ambassador to the USA, told Stalin that:

- the USA wanted world domination and was building up its military strength
- the Soviet Union was the only country left after the war that could stand up to the USA
- the USA was preparing its people for war with the Soviet Union.

Ideological differences and the atomic bomb had made relations between the superpowers worse. The USA saw the Soviet Union as a threat to its economic interests in Europe. The Soviet Union feared and resented the USA's nuclear monopoly, which did not end until 1949.

Now try this

- 1 Create a table with two columns, one for capitalism and the other for communism. Then, insert any words that relate to either, matching words by their opposing term (e.g. capitalism: individual / communism: collective).
- 2 Now answer the following questions in the light of the table you have just created:
 - (a) What was communism's main criticism of capitalism?
 - (b) What was capitalism's main criticism of communism?
- 3 Why did trust between the USA and the Soviet Union decrease between 1945 and 1947?

Creating lists like this will enable you to understand key terms and topics and draw conclusions about them.

Satellite states

Between 1947 and 1949, the Soviet Union spread its sphere of influence to neighbouring countries. Countries like Poland and Hungary became 'satellite states' under the control of the Soviet Union.

Communism and 'free' elections

- At the Yalta and Potsdam conferences, the Soviet Union agreed to free elections in the countries in its sphere of influence.
- The Soviet Union thought people would choose communism in free elections, however most did not.
- So the Soviet Union fixed elections making sure the Communist Party won.
- Once in power, the communists shut down the opposition parties and each country became a single-party state.



Fixing elections and then shutting down opposition parties was known as 'salami tactics'.

Land taken by Soviet Union at the end of the Second World War
 Soviet-controlled communist countries
 Non Soviet-controlled communist countries

Soviet expansion in Europe, 1945–48.

The growing Soviet influence in Eastern Europe

Country	How it became communist
Bulgaria	A communist government was elected in 1945, and all elected non-communists were executed.
Romania	A communist-led coalition took power. However, by 1947 the communists had taken over and Romania became a one-party state.
Poland	At Yalta Stalin promised to set up a joint communist/non-communist government. He then invited 16 non-communist leaders to Moscow and arrested them. Thousands of non-communists were arrested. The communists then 'won' the 1947 election.
Hungary	The communists lost the 1945 election but the communist leader Rakosi took control of the secret police, executed and imprisoned his opponents and turned Hungary into a communist state.
Czechoslovakia	Edward Benes set up a coalition government. However, the communists retained control of the army, the radio and the secret police. In 1948 they seized power completely, turning the country into a communist state.
East Germany	The original Soviet zone of occupation in Germany, it became a communist state in October 1949.

The impact of the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe on superpower relations

- The USA saw the Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe as a betrayal of the Yalta agreement, in which Stalin had made promises about holding democratic elections.
- Others saw it as evidence of Soviet expansion: Eastern Europe was a stepping-stone to a Soviet takeover of Western Europe.
- The USA was determined to contain communism through military and economic assistance: the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid.
- The Soviet Union argued it needed to control Eastern Europe as a buffer zone, protecting it from attack from the West. The US response was unnecessary and unreasonable.

Now try this

Describe how Stalin was able to gain control of Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1950.

The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan

In response to the spread of Soviet control in Eastern Europe, the USA stepped up its involvement in Europe, and the Soviet Union was determined to defend itself against any threats from the West. The USA was determined to stop the spread of communism, and the Soviet Union was determined to defend itself against Western attack. Europe was the centre of this ideological 'battleground'. The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan thus increased tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Truman's concerns

- Europe was devastated after the war.
- In many countries people had no money, no jobs and were feeling hopeless.
- Communism was attractive to these people, especially in France and Italy: it made sure everyone had enough.
- Many in Eastern Europe had been liberated from Nazi rule by the Soviets.
- Countries like Poland, Romania and Bulgaria had already had communist governments forced on them and Truman feared this could happen in other countries too.
- Some governments (e.g. Greece and Turkey) were too poor to combat communist revolutions in their own countries.
- If Greece and Turkey became communist, then other countries across Europe and the Middle East would follow. This was known as the Domino Theory.



Post-war Berlin. Much of Europe had been destroyed during the war. Many people were homeless and starving. Truman feared that this could lead to people electing communist governments.

The Truman Doctrine (1947)

In a speech in 1947, US President Truman set out why the USA should get involved:

- ✓ Countries faced a choice between either capitalism or communism.
- ✓ Communism was bad because it meant people could not be free.
- ✓ The USA must try to contain (hold back) this spread of communism.
- ✓ The USA should provide money and troops (if necessary) to help free governments to combat communist takeovers.

The Truman Doctrine was all about stopping the spread of communism. The USA was prepared to use both military and economic methods to prevent this from happening.

The Marshall Plan (1947)

- ✓ \$13 billion from USA to help rebuild Europe.
- ✓ Communism appealed most to people with nothing to lose, so the Marshall Plan hoped to stop communism by giving people a stake in the capitalist system.
- ✓ Countries must trade with the USA to get the money.
- ✓ Sixteen Western European countries took the money including Britain, France and West Germany.
- ✓ The Soviet Union criticised the Marshall Plan as an attack on them because it threatened communist control in Eastern Europe.

Now try this

- 1 Explain **two** consequences of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan.
- 2 Explain why the USA hoped that the Marshall Plan would combat the spread of communism.

Cominform, Comecon and NATO

The establishment of NATO in Western Europe matched the setting up of Cominform and Comecon in Eastern Europe.

Cominform

Cominform stood for the Communist Information Bureau. Stalin set it up in 1947. The bureau organised all the communist parties in Europe and arranged their leadership so they would do what Moscow told them to.

Key points:

- ✓ Cominform got rid of any opposition to the Soviet Union's control in satellite states.
- ✓ It encouraged communist parties in Western countries to block Marshall Plan assistance.

Comecon

Comecon stood for the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. Stalin set it up in 1949. It was the Soviet Union's alternative to the Marshall Plan.

Key points:

- ✓ It built up trade links between Comecon countries.
- ✓ It also prevented Comecon countries signing up to the Marshall Plan.
- ✓ Comecon included the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Albania and, from 1950, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

Consequences

Western Europe was now in one camp. It was linked to the USA through the Marshall Plan and the US policy of containment of communism.



Eastern Europe was now in one camp. It was tied to the Soviet Union as satellite states and the Soviet Union believed socialist revolution would spread worldwide.

Europe was now divided into two spheres of influence: Western Europe (capitalist and pro-American) and Eastern Europe (communist and controlled by the Soviet Union). The line that divided these two spheres of influence was known as the Iron Curtain.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

- ✓ NATO was set up in 1949. It was a military alliance made up of the United States, Britain, Canada, Holland, Belgium, France, Denmark and Norway. West Germany joined in 1955.
- ✓ NATO was a military alliance based around the principle of collective security; if one country was attacked other countries had to assist it.
- ✓ NATO was directed against a possible military attack from the Soviet Union on Western Europe.

The significance of NATO

- ✓ NATO showed that, after the Berlin Blockade and the Soviet Union's own development of the atomic bomb, neither the United States nor Western European governments were prepared to accept future Soviet aggression.
- ✓ The Soviet Union therefore turned to strengthening its control over Eastern Europe, resulting in the formation of the Warsaw Pact in 1955.
- ✓ There were now two military alliances, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, facing each other across the Iron Curtain.

Now try this

Why was Stalin so keen to prevent satellite countries getting money from the Marshall Plan?

Germany and the Cold War

The Allies were unable to agree about Germany's future. A short-term solution, agreed at Potsdam in July 1945, was to divide the country and its capital, Berlin, into zones of military occupation. The United States, Britain and France were given Western Germany and West Berlin. The Soviet Union was given Eastern Germany and East Berlin. The Soviet Union felt threatened by the USA's rebuilding of Western Germany and West Berlin.

Reunification

The USA wanted a united, capitalist Germany that it could trade with and would help prevent the spread of communism.

Division

The Soviet Union wanted Germany to be weak, communist and divided, so that it would never be able to attack the Soviet Union again.

Bizonia and Western Germany

- ✓ It made sense for British and US zones to join together, as it would be easier to administer. The area was called Bizonia and was included in the Marshall Plan. Later on the French zone of occupation was added to create 'West Germany'.
- ✓ This was *not* popular with the Soviet Union, as Stalin was not consulted. He thought Bizonia went against the agreements made at the Potsdam Conference, and he suspected the USA was aiming to permanently divide richer Western Germany from poorer Eastern Germany.

Eastern Germany and the Berlin Blockade

- ✓ The Soviet Union had 1.5 million troops in its zone, whereas the Western countries had sent most of their troops home.
- ✓ Eastern Germany grew almost all the food that West Berlin ate.
- ✓ Berlin was deep in Soviet-controlled Germany, and divided into US, British, French and Soviet zones.
- ✓ In June 1948 the Soviet Union closed all road, rail and canal links into West Berlin to force British, French and US troops to leave their zone in the city.
- ✓ The Soviet Union blocked all supplies into Berlin to show it had the power to stop a divided Germany working.

The Berlin Airlift

West Berlin couldn't last for many days without supplies. It looked like the Western powers would have to pull out of Berlin. That would look weak, undermining the USA's image in particular. So Western powers responded with an airlift – between 26 June 1948 and 30 September 1949 thousands of tonnes of supplies were flown daily into Berlin.

West Germany

- The Berlin Airlift made the USA appear peaceful and generous.
- In September 1949, West Germany (FRG) was officially formed, with US support.
- In April 1949, Western European countries and the USA formed NATO to counter the Soviet military threat.

East Germany

- The Berlin Blockade made the Soviet Union appear aggressive and threatening.
- In October 1949, East Germany (GDR) was officially formed as a Soviet state.
- In May 1955, the Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact to counter the military threat from NATO.

Now try this

- 1 What were the FRG, GDR and NATO?
- 2 Explain what happened during the Berlin Blockade and Airlift, 1948–49.

The arms race and the Warsaw Pact

The United States initially had a monopoly of nuclear weapons, but the emergence of the Soviet Union as a nuclear power in 1949 led to the start of the nuclear arms race. The formation of the Warsaw Pact in 1955 further added to Cold War tensions in Europe.

Timeline

The nuclear arms race



Both superpowers having nuclear weapons was a powerful reason why a cold war did not become a hot war!

The significance of the nuclear arms race

1. Up to 1949, the United States thought it could use its monopoly of nuclear weapons to deter Soviet attack.
2. This meant that US military figures, such as Curtis LeMay and Douglas MacArthur, decided that the best strategy in the event of war with the Soviet Union was to use nuclear weapons.
3. However, by the mid 1950s the development of nuclear weapons to include bigger warheads and missile delivery systems meant that any nuclear war would destroy both sides resulting in Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).
4. This meant any military confrontation between both sides could rapidly escalate to nuclear war.
5. This meant that the USA and the Soviet Union had to find ways of stopping disputes between them turning into dangerous wars that involved nuclear weapons.



The theorist Herman Kahn described nuclear war as a 'Wargasm' of destruction making victory in war meaningless.

Formation of the Warsaw Pact

- ✓ The Warsaw Pact was a collective defence treaty involving the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Albania and Bulgaria.
- ✓ It was set up on 14 May 1955 following West Germany's entry into NATO on 9 May 1955.

Significance of the Warsaw Pact

- The formation of the Warsaw Pact meant there were now two opposing alliances in Europe separated by the Iron Curtain.
- Both alliances planned for military action against the other, including the use of nuclear and conventional weapons.
- The Warsaw Pact gave the Soviet Union direct control over the armed forces of its satellite states, thus strengthening its grip on Eastern Europe.

Now try this

Explain why both the nuclear arms race and the formation of the Warsaw Pact were significant developments during the Cold War.

Soviet control in Hungary

After Stalin died, Soviet leader Khrushchev indicated Soviet control would relax. But when Hungary started to move away from Soviet influence, the Soviet Union tightened its control for fear that if Hungary left the Warsaw Pact, other countries would follow.

Impact of Soviet rule

- ☛ Hungary suffered a lot under Stalin's control.
- ☛ Food and industrial products were shipped off to Russia.
- ☛ Any opposition in Hungary was ruthlessly wiped out.
- ☛ Matyas Rakosi was a brutal ruler. He called himself 'Stalin's best pupil' but was known as the 'Bald Butcher'.
- ☛ Communist rule became very unpopular.



The Hungarian uprising in 1956, showing a statue of Stalin that had been pulled down.

Destalinisation

When Stalin died, Khrushchev took over as Soviet leader. In 1956, in his 'secret speech', Khrushchev hinted that Soviet control would relax.

In October 1956, poor harvests and bread shortages meant that Hungarians started demonstrating against communist control with statues of Stalin pulled down and local communists attacked. Khrushchev appointed a more liberal Prime Minister for Hungary – Imre Nagy – in the hope that the situation would calm down.

Destalinisation meant that the Soviet Union no longer saw itself as a dictatorship. Instead it became a one-party state, governed by the Politburo with Khrushchev as its leader. Many Hungarians mistakenly believed that the end of Stalin's rule would bring an end to communism in Hungary, especially as Soviet troops had already withdrawn from neighbouring Austria.

Nagy as prime minister

Nagy wanted the following reforms for Hungary.

- Leave the Warsaw Pact and become a neutral country.
- Hold free elections leading to no more communist government.
- UN protection from the Soviet Union.

However this was a problem for the Soviet Union because if Nagy succeeded in Hungary other countries in Eastern Europe would follow and the Warsaw Pact would collapse.

Now try this

- 1 Why were many Hungarians prepared to protest against the government in October 1956?
- 2 Why was Khrushchev reluctant to support Nagy's reforms of October 1956?

The Soviet invasion of Hungary, 1956

Khrushchev disapproved of Nagy's reforms and in 1956 Soviet troops invaded Hungary. This provoked a strong reaction in the West and in neutral countries condemning the invasion.

The Soviet invasion of Hungary

- Khrushchev disapproved of Nagy's reforms and proposals. If Hungary left the Warsaw Pact, other countries would soon follow.
- Khrushchev worried that Nagy's actions threatened communist rule. He claimed communists were being slaughtered in Hungary. This may have been propaganda, but a number of Hungarian communists had been killed and members of the state security forces, the AVH, attacked in the violence of October 1956, which took place in Budapest and other Hungarian towns and cities. Khrushchev feared the unrest would spread to other satellite states.
- On 4 November 1956, Khrushchev sent 200 000 Soviet troops into Hungary to depose Nagy and restore order.



Damage in Budapest caused by Soviet troops during the invasion of Hungary, 4 November 1956.

The consequences of the Soviet invasion of Hungary

- ✓ Over 5000 Hungarians were killed as a result of the invasion, including around 1000 Soviet troops. Many Hungarian soldiers loyal to Nagy and the revolution fought against Soviet troops.
- ✓ Nagy and his government were deposed.
- ✓ Imre Nagy was arrested, tried and executed. Khrushchev wanted to prevent rebellions in other communist countries, such as Poland, and hoped he could do so by making an example of Nagy.
- ✓ A new leader, Janos Kadar, was appointed. He introduced the Fifteen Point Programme, which aimed to re-establish communist rule in Hungary. Kadar's policies were more moderate than those of other Soviet satellite states and resulted in Hungary having better living standards than other East European states. Hungarians, aware that the United States was not prepared to help them, grudgingly accepted this modified form of communist rule.

International reaction and consequences

The United Nations condemned Soviet actions. Some countries boycotted the 1956 Olympics in protest. But stronger actions did not happen.

The USA supported Hungary's uprising – with money, medical aid and words. The USA accepted 80000 refugees from Hungary.

But the USA couldn't send troops: would risk nuclear war.

Hungary was on its own against the Soviet Union: they had to give in.

Satellite states saw that the USA would not defend them against the Soviet Union. Soviet control retightened across Eastern Europe.

Now try this

- 1 Explain two consequences of the Hungarian Uprising in 1956.
- 2 Explain how Khrushchev responded to the Hungarian uprising of 1956.

For question 2, think about Khrushchev's concerns, the Soviet invasion, and its consequences.

Had a look

Nearly there

Nailed it!

Increased tension

A divided Berlin

After the war, Germany was divided into four zones and its capital city, Berlin, was also divided into four. The divided city became a focus for the Cold War.

West Berlin

- West Berlin was deep inside Soviet-controlled East Germany.
- Divided Berlin gave the USA a foothold inside the Soviet **Eastern bloc**.
- Some Germans in East Germany did not like having a communist government.
- There were also better jobs with higher wages in the West.
- It was easy to get to West Germany once you had reached the western zones in Berlin.

The refugee problem in Berlin

- ✓ Between 1949 and 1961, 2.7 million East Germans crossed from the East to the West in Berlin. The population of West Germany increased while the economy benefitted from an influx of skilled workers. Many left for the West, leaving the East with a skills shortage.
- ✓ This looked bad for the Soviets: people clearly preferred West Germany.



Khrushchev's Berlin ultimatum (November 1958)

- This stated that all Berlin belonged to East Germany and that occupying troops must leave in six months.
- The Soviet Union knew that if it tried to push the West out of Berlin by force, a war would start that it could not win, as the US had more nuclear weapons. So, a series of summit meetings took place between the leaders of the USA and the Soviet Union.

Summit meetings 1959–61 between the USA and the Soviet Union

Summit	Outcome
Geneva (May 1959), involving foreign representatives only	No solution agreed but a further summit organised for Camp David in the USA.
Camp David (Sept 1959), involving Eisenhower and Khrushchev	No solution agreed but a further meeting arranged in Paris.
Paris Summit (May 1960), involving Eisenhower and Khrushchev	A disaster. Khrushchev stormed out because the Soviet Union had shot down a US spy plane over Russia.
Vienna Conference (Jan 1961), involving Kennedy and Khrushchev	Neither was willing to back down. Khrushchev saw Kennedy's inexperience as a weakness and reissued his ultimatum for the USA to remove its troops from Berlin.

Now try this

- 1 Explain why West Berlin was so important during the Cold War.
- 2 Describe the summit meetings that took place between the USA and the Soviet Union over the future of Berlin.

B: PART 2 Fortunes of the USSR and the GDR

Complete the Questions highlighted in yellow.

Russia, 1917–91 and the German Democratic Republic, 1949–90

Germany (from 1949–90 the GDR)		World	Russia		
1871 Unification of Germany	1871				
1871–1918: German Reich (German Empire)	1914	Start of First World War			
1. Who was leader of Germany at the outbreak of WW1?	1917		February revolution 2. Who was overthrown in Feb 1917? Abdication of Tsar Return of Lenin: April Theses 3. What did Lenin promise in his Theses? Provisional government set up October: Bolshevik seizure of power Constituent Assembly Elections Cheka founded		
	1918	End of First World War	Bolsheviks disbanded Constituent Assembly Treaty of Brest-Litovsk	1918–20: Russian Civil War 4. Who was on each side? 1918–20: Allied intervention	1918–21: War Communism
1919–33: Weimar Republic	1919				
5. List 5 features of the Weimar Republic.	1920				
	1921		Kronstadt Rebellion Tenth Party Congress – ban on factions	1921–22: Famine	
	1922		Cheka renamed as GPU Stalin became General Secretary of the Central Committee USSR established		1921–28: New Economic Policy 6. What was the New Economic Policy?
	1923		'Scissors Crisis'		
	1924		Lenin's death USSR constitution agreed		
	1925				
	1926		Attacks began on Stalin's political opponents		
	1927		Grain shortages Fifteenth Party Congress decided on industrialisation		

Germany (from 1949–90 the GDR)		World	Russia	
	1928		Grain requisitioning introduced. Shakhty trial	1928–32: First Five Year Plan, focused on heavy industry
	1929	Wall Street Crash	Defeat of the Right Opposition	
	1930		1930–31: First show trials took place	8. What are five year plans?
	1931		7. What are show trials?	
	1932			1932–33: The Holodomor: severe famine in the Ukraine.
	1933			
1933–45 Third Reich (Nazi Germany)				1933–37: Second Five Year Plan
9. List 5 features of the Third Reich	1934		Assassination of Kirov Seventeenth Party Congress Congress of Writers adopted principles of 'socialist realism'	
	1935		Comintern adopted 'popular front' policy of cooperating with socialists abroad	1934–38: Purges
	1936		New constitution Trial of the Sixteen Yezhov replaced Yagoda as head of NKVD	
	1937		Red Army purged Trial of the Seventeen	1937–38: The Yezhovshchina
	1938		Trial of the Twenty One Beria replaced Yezhov as head of NKVD	
	1939	Start of the Second World War	Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact 10. What is the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact	Only 16 of the 71 1934 Central Committee members were still alive
	1940		USSR annexed Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Trotsky assassinated in Mexico Germany invaded Soviet Union	
	1941			1942–33: Battle of Stalingrad
	1942			
	1943			1941–44: Siege of Leningrad
	1944			
	1945	Yalta Conference End of Second World War Potsdam Conference		
Division of Germany into four occupation zones 11. Who controlled each zone?				
Creation of SED 12. Who are the SED?	1946		Zhdanov launched attacks on cultural dissent	

Germany (from 1949–90 the GDR)			World	Russia			
		1947	Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan				
Berlin Blockade		1948					
End of Berlin Blockade Creation of GDR		1949	NATO formed	COMECON formed Leningrad Party purged			
GDR joined COMECON 13. What is Comecon? Stasi (Ministry for State Security) formed 14. What role did the Stasi play in the GDR?		1950					
People's Police increased to 50,000	1951-55: First Five-Year Plan	1951					
'Stalin Note' proposing a reunified and neutral Germany 15. What does Stalin's note tell us about his intentions regarding Germany? Collectivisation of agriculture began SED announced the 'building of socialism' in the GDR Five Länder replaced with 14 districts First elections to the GDR parliament		1952		Party renamed the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU)			
The rising of June 1953 was suppressed by force 16. Who was rebelling and why?		1953		Death of Stalin and succession of Beria			
<i>Jugendweihe</i> (secular youth ceremony, like confirmation) introduced as part of SED campaign against the churches		1954					
Warsaw Pact founded, with the GDR as a member 17. List 3 features of the Warsaw Pact		1955			Khrushchev comes to power Warsaw Pact		
National People's Army (NVA) founded Ulbricht made concessions to head off threats to his position following Khrushchev's secret speech		1956-60: Second Five-Year Plan	1956	1956: Hungarian revolution	Khrushchev's Secret Speech to the Twentieth Party Congress 18. What was the contents of the secret speech?		1954-60: Virgin Lands Scheme
Erich Mielke became head of the Stasi (until 1989) First Trabant P50 produced 19. What is a trabant?			1957		Khrushchev survived attempt of 'anti-party group' to depose him		
Khrushchev issued ultimatum over Berlin Fifth SED Party conference			1958				
Seven-Year Plan begun (to 1965)			1959				
Pace of collectivisation increased President Wilhelm Pieck died and was replaced by the Council of State (a collective head of state)			1960		U2 spy plane shot down		

Germany (from 1949–90 the GDR)		World	Russia	
Berlin Wall erected 20. Find five interesting Berlin Wall statistics	1961		Yuri Gagarin was the first man in space Twenty-second Party Congress initiates further phase of de-Stalinisation	
Compulsory conscription	1962	Cuban Missile Crisis		
New Economic System introduced Günter Mittag appointed Head of the Office for Economic Planning	1963			
Alternative military service as construction workers (<i>Bausoldaten</i>) without bearing weapons introduced More open youth policy; new radio station DT 64 proved popular with young people	1964		Fall of Khrushchev	
Cultural reforms announced in 1963 reversed	1965			
	1966		Sinyavski-Daniel trial 21. Who as on trial and why?	
	1967		1967–82: Andropov's suppression of dissidents	
New constitution confirmed leading role of the SED	1968	Prague Spring Rebellion in Czechoslovakia		
FRG Chancellor Brandt introduced <i>Ostpolitik</i> 22. Define Ostpolitik	1969			
Meetings between FRG and GDR leaders End of New Economic System	1970			
Ulbricht replaced by Honecker as SED leader Four Powers' Agreement on Berlin signed 23. Find 3 interesting facts about Honecker	1971			
Basic Treaty between FRG and GDR signed Nationalisation of virtually all remaining private enterprises	1972			
First 'oil shock' as OPEC countries raise prices Housing programme launched	1973			
GDR revised its constitution to define itself as 'A Socialist State of Workers and Farmers' rather than a 'Socialist State of the German nation'	1974			Solzhenitsyn expelled from the Soviet Union
Helsinki Final Act agreed	1975	Vietnam War ends		
Wolf Biermann exiled New social welfare measures to benefit those with young families	1976			
	1977			Brezhnev's Constitution: Article 6 confirmed the 'leading role' of the Communist Party in the political system
Church-state agreement Sigmund Jähn was first German in space	1978			

Germany (from 1949–90 the GDR)		World	Russia		
Second 'oil shock' Stasi grows to 80,000	1979				
Church Peace Movement formed	1980	Reagan became President of USA Solidarity Movement in Poland			
USSR cuts oil exports to the GDR FRG Chancellor Schmidt visited the GDR	1981	Martial Law imposed in Poland			
	1982		Brezhnev died and was succeeded by Andropov		
Josef Strauss arranged loans from the FRG	1983				
Honecker's planned visit to the FRG cancelled	1984		Andropov died and was succeeded by Chernenko		
	1985		Chernenko died and was succeeded by Gorbachev 24. Find 3 interesting facts about Gorbachev		
	1986		Gorbachev criticises Brezhnev era at Twenty-seventh Party Congress Accident at Chernobyl nuclear reactor Yeltsin becomes Moscow Party Secretary		
Honecker visited the FRG Peace march Stasi raid on the Environmental Library in East Berlin	1987				
Soviet magazine <i>Sputnik</i> banned in the GDR Civil rights activists began prayer meetings at Nikolae church in Leipzig	1988		Nineteenth Party Congress began to dismantle one-party rule		
May election results claimed to be false by dissidents Hungary dismantles its border with Austria: refugee crisis New Forum founded Monday demonstrations in Leipzig 25. Why were there demos in Leipzig? Gorbachev visits Berlin for 40th Anniversary of GDR Honecker deposed and replaced by Krenz Growing demonstrations Travel restrictions lifted and Berlin Wall opened Chancellor Kohl of the FRG announces 'Ten-Point Plan' for German reunification Politburo resigned and SED renounced its claim to leadership Round Table talks opened	1989		Elections of the new Congress of People's Deputies Gorbachev elected Chairman of Supreme Soviet Demonstrations in Tbilisi		

Germany (from 1949–90 the GDR)		World	Russia	
Stasi offices ransacked CDU-dominated government elected in free elections Currency Union 'Two-plus-Four talks' on reunification and NATO Newly-created East German Länder join FRG to form reunited Germany	1990		End of Communist Party's monopoly on power Yeltsin resigns party membership	
	1991		Referendum on union Yeltsin elected Russian president Novo-Ogarevo process to establish a new Union Treaty Attempted hard-line coup to remove Gorbachev Communist Party dissolved Georgia declares independence Baltic states become independent Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) established by Russia, Belorussia and Ukraine Gorbachev resigns USSR dissolved	