

HISTORY A (EXPLAINING THE MODERN WORLD)

Scheme of work for International Relations c.1918-2001

Recommended guided learning hours: 36

Please note, this resource is valid for assessments up to summer 2020. Please see the website for further details.

Note to Teachers

The key element in all of the Schemes of Work is the Indicative Content. It is not the place of OCR to dictate teaching methods to teachers. However, it is the advice of the teachers and examiners who have helped to create this Scheme of Work that it is not a productive use of course time to ask students to record and try to remember every event. The structure of the course and its assessment is such that if students have discussed, considered and possibly even argued about the questions in the issues column, and know the Indicative Content, then it should be the work from those tasks which they should revise. This will prepare them most effectively for the examination.

| Key topic | Teaching and learning hours | Indicative content | Specified content – please note that this does not need to be covered in the same amount of detail as on legacy GCSE specifications | What kinds of questions should students consider? <i>These questions are not exam-style questions, but a good plenary activity might be to ask students in pairs to talk uninterrupted for 30 seconds answering one of these questions to check understanding in the lesson</i> | Resources |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Conflict and co-operation 1918–1939 | 1 | The Versailles Peace Settlement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims of the three main powers. • Terms of the treaty. • Effect of the treaty on international relations in the 1920s and 1930s e.g. creation of the League of Nations. • Reactions to the treaty. | <p>What were the aims of the main powers?</p> <p>What were the key terms of the Treaty of Versailles?</p> <p>Why were there disagreements?</p> <p>Why were many people unhappy with the treaty?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |



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| | 2 | The League of Nations in the 1920s; Successes and failures of internationalist approaches in the 1920s and the retreat to nationalism in the 1930s | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key roles of the League in the 1920s e.g. commissions. Successes e.g. disputes between countries such as Poland, Bulgaria. Failures of the League. Effects of withdrawal from League of Japan, Germany. | <p>What successes did the League of Nations have in the 1920s?</p> <p>Were there any failures?</p> <p>What was the effect of Japan and Germany leaving the League?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 1 | International agreements in the 1920s (Dawes Plan 1924, Locarno 1925, Kellogg-Briand 1928, Young Plan 1929); attempts at disarmament. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why the Dawes Plan was important. Terms and effects of Locarno Treaty. Significance of Kellogg-Briand Pact. Disarmament conferences and reasons for failure. | <p>What were the key international agreements in the 1920s</p> <p>What were the successes and failures of the agreements</p> <p>Why were attempts at disarmament unsuccessful?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 1 | The impact of the worldwide economic depression. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on people e.g. unemployment. Impact on governments e.g. nationalism, dictatorships in Italy, Japan, Germany. | <p>What was the impact of the worldwide economic depression on international relations?</p> <p>What did Italy, Japan and Germany do in response to the depression?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |



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| | 2 | Tension in Europe in the 1930s, including the failure of the League of Nations, the policy of Appeasement and outbreak of war in 1939. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions of Germany e.g. remilitarisation of Rhineland, Anschluss. • Reactions of Britain, France and USA to German, Japanese and Italian aggression . • Actions of Italy e.g. invasion of Abyssinia. • Reaction of League and other powers. • Reasons for and extend of success of appeasement. • Reasons why war broke out in 1939 e.g. Appeasement, Nazi-Soviet Pact. | <p>What were the key features of German foreign policy 1933-38?</p> <p>Why did the League of Nations fail in the 1930s?</p> <p>Why did war break out in September 1939?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| Changing interpretations of appeasement | 3 | General introduction to idea of interpretations How and why the following have resulted in differing interpretations of appeasement: the Second World War | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an interpretation? • Public approval in 1938. • Criticism by Churchill and other contemporaries. • 'Guilty Men' idea. | <p><i>Type A questions will usually be along the lines of 'How far do you accept the view of Interpretation X on Appeasement?'</i></p> <p><i>Type B questions will usually be along the lines of 'Explain why not all historians have agreed with Interpretation Y' or 'Do you agree that most historians would agree with Interpretation Y?'</i></p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |



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| | 2 | The Cold War | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churchill's views after 1945 e.g. 'The Gathering Storm'. American historians in the 1950s. Revisionist interpretations from the 1960s onwards e.g. AJP Taylor. | <p>How have views on appeasement changed?</p> <p>What might explain these changes?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 2 | New sources of evidence c.1990 onwards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-revisionist interpretations since the 1990s e.g. Niall Ferguson. Counter-factual history. The situation by 2015: partly guilty? | <p>Do historians now think differently to those writing before 1989? Why / why not?</p> <p>Can we really say anything definitive about appeasement?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 1 | <i>Interpretations understanding and practice questions</i> | | | |
| The Cold War 1945-c.1989 | 2 | Emerging super-power rivalry 1945–1949; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yalta and Potsdam conference. Reasons for breakdown of wartime alliance. Creation of NATO. | <p>What were the terms of the Yalta and Potsdam conferences?</p> <p>Why did tensions increase by 1948?</p> <p>Why was NATO created in 1949?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |



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| | 2 | Actions of the USSR in Eastern Europe 1945–1948 and response of USA and its allies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of rigged elections. • Examples of fair elections. • Examples of Communist infiltration of police, army. • Berlin Blockade. • Response of the USA e.g. Marshall Aid. | <p>What did the USSR do in Eastern Europe?</p> <p>What were the key features of Soviet takeover?</p> <p>Why was Berlin blockaded?</p> <p>Why did the USA introduce Marshall Aid?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 2 | Cold War confrontations: Berlin Wall 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1950s tensions e.g. Korea and Warsaw Pact. • Reasons for the building of the wall. • Response by the USA. • Reasons for increased tensions over Cuba. • Actions of the USA and the USSR in October 1962. • Outcomes for the USA, USSR and international relations. | <p>Why were tensions increasing in the 1950s?</p> <p>What effect did the Berlin Wall have on relations?</p> <p>Why did Cuba become a flashpoint?</p> <p>What were the key outcomes for international relations?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 3 | Cold War conflicts: Vietnam War, the Soviet war in Afghanistan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for American involvement in Vietnam. • Impact of American involvement e.g. on morale, at home. • Actions of the USSR in Vietnam. • How Vietnam changed international relations. | <p>What actions did the USA take in Vietnam in the 1950s and 1960s?</p> <p>Why did the Americans lose?</p> <p>Why did public opinion in the USA change?</p> <p>What were the key features of détente in the 1970s?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |



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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Détente in the 1970s. Reasons for Soviet involvement in Afghanistan. Response by the USA e.g. Olympic boycott. How Afghanistan changed super-power relations. | <p>Why did the Soviets invade Afghanistan?</p> <p>What happened to relations in the years 1979-81?</p> | |
| Changing interpretations of the responsibility for Cold War tensions | 2 | How and why the following have resulted in differing interpretations of the Cold War: the internal culture and politics of the USSR and USA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodox American views in the 1940s and 1950s: Soviet aggression to blame, the 'red scare'. Orthodox Soviet views: Americans to blame, defensive actions of the USSR | <p><i>Type A questions will usually be along the lines of 'How far do you accept the view of Interpretation X on the causes of the Cold War?'</i></p> <p><i>Type B questions will usually be along the lines of 'Explain why not all historians have agreed with Interpretation Y' or 'Do you agree that most historians would agree with Interpretation Y?'</i></p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 2 | The Vietnam War | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisionism in the USA. New Left ideas, counterculture. Gaddis: both to blame. | <p>How did the Vietnam War change views about the Cold War?</p> <p>Why did some Americans blame themselves?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |



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| | 2 | New sources of evidence c.1990 onwards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of the access to Soviet archives. Gaddis: Soviets to blame after all. Inevitability? No-one to blame. | <p><i>Did access to the Soviet archives change people's views?</i></p> <p><i>Is there agreement now on who was to blame?</i></p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 1 | <i>Interpretations understanding and practice</i> | | | |
| From the end of the Cold War to 9/11 | 3 | Gorbachev and the end of the Cold War | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deteriorating relations before Gorbachev 1980-85. Reforms such as Glasnost and Perestroika. Decreased tensions e.g. international agreements (INF, START). How communism collapsed in eastern Europe (1989) and the Soviet Union (1991). The 1990s: continued conflict e.g. Rwanda and resolution e.g. Northern Ireland. | <p>Why did relations get worse 1981-84?</p> <p>What were the key treaties and conferences 1985-88?</p> <p>Why did communism collapse quickly in 1989?</p> <p>Why did the Soviet Union break up in 1991?</p> <p>What were the key features of international relations in the 1990s?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |



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| | 1 | Consequences of the Soviet war in Afghanistan: the rise of the Taliban and the origins of Al-Qaeda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise of the Mujahideen and American involvement. Reasons for the rise of the Taliban. Reasons for the establishment of Al-Qaeda. | <p>Why did the Soviets leave Afghanistan in 1988?</p> <p>What were the consequences of the war?</p> <p>Why were Al-Qaeda and the Taliban created?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |
| | 1 | Al-Qaeda activity from the 1990s culminating in 9/11. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Trade Center bombing 1993. African embassy bombings 1998. The USS Cole. Impact of events on American foreign policy. Events of 9/11 – why did Al-Qaeda do it? | <p>What were the key actions of Al-Qaeda in the 1990s?</p> <p>Why did 9/11 occur?</p> | OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies (29th July 2016); OCR website International Relations tool (June 2016) |





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