

IGCSE HISTORY Revision Checklist – 2024

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Paper 1 Topics




- You need to revise **BOTH** these key questions thoroughly as both will be examined.

Key Question: Who was to blame for the Cold War?

(NB – this refers only to the period 1945 to 1949 – it does **NOT** refer to the development of the Cold War after 1949, i.e The Korean War, Cuban Crisis and Vietnam – these topics are Paper 2)



Why did the US–Soviet alliance begin to break down in 1945?




(Think causes and consequences)

	Revised			
Ideological differences between Capitalism and Communism.				
Yalta Conference (Agreements and difficulties).				
Potsdam Conference (Agreements and difficulties).				
Truman and the Atomic bomb.				
Soviet Expansion in Eastern Europe (By country + Tactics used).				
What were Cominform and Comecon?				
Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech.				
Truman Doctrine.				
Marshall Aid.				
Soviet response to Marshall Aid.				
Post War division of Germany + Berlin.				
Berlin Blockade (Stalin's motives).				
Berlin Blockade (Western response).				
Ending the Blockade – creation of East and West Germany.				
Creation of NATO.				
Think BIG: Who was more to blame for starting the Cold War: The United States or the USSR?				

Key Question: How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

This is a 'big' key question – the exam question could come from just one element OR from all – so you need know it all!

The Hungarian and Czech Uprisings <i>(Think causes and consequences as well as similarity and difference)</i>				
Hungary 1956 – Nagy / Khrushchev Czechoslovakia 1968 – Dubcek / Brezhnev	Revised			
What was Destalinisation?				
Why did Hungarians 'oppose' Soviet rule?				
What reforms did Imre Nagy propose?				
Why were the reforms seen as a threat by Khrushchev?				
What was the Soviet response?				
What were the consequences for Hungary?				
Why did the Czechs 'oppose' Soviet rule?				
What reforms did Anton Dubcek propose?				
Why were the reforms seen as a threat by Brezhnev?				
What was the Soviet response?				
What were the consequences for Czechoslovakia?				
Think Big: How similar were the Hungarian and Czech Uprisings?				
The Second Berlin Crisis, 1958-61 (Not to be confused with the first crisis – the Berlin blockade and airlift!)				
Why were people leaving East Berlin?				
Why did the communist government want to prevent East Berliners leaving? (Economic + political reasons)				
What was Khrushchev's 'Berlin Ultimatum'? (1958)				
Describe the building of the 'wall' (what was the wall?)				
What impact did the crisis / wall have on East / West relations?				




Poland and the Solidarity Movement				
	Revised			
Who / what was Solidarity? Who was Lech Walesa?				
What were Solidarity's demands?				
How successful was Solidarity?				
What was the response of the Polish Government (under General Jaruzelski) towards Solidarity?				
What was the significance of Solidarity for Soviet control of Eastern Europe?				
Gorbachev and the collapse of Soviet control in Eastern Europe				
Who was Michel Gorbachev?				
Why did Gorbachev want to 'reform' the USSR?				
What were the policies of glasnost and perestroika?				
How did Gorbachev coming to power help the Solidarity movement in Poland?				
How did Gorbachev's rule encourage eastern European 'nationalism' (Independence)?				
How did Soviet control of Eastern Europe collapse between 1989 and 1991?				
What happened to Gorbachev?				
How / why did the USSR collapse in 1991? (From March 1990)				
Think Big: How far was Gorbachev personally responsible for the collapse of Soviet control over Eastern Europe?				

Depth Study: USA (For Paper 1 AND Paper 4)

- For Paper 1: You will have a choice of TWO questions (4,6,10) – You must answer ONE.
- For Paper 4: You will have a choice of TWO questions (15,25) – You must answer ONE.

Key Question: How far did the US economy boom in the 1920s?				
	Revised			
How did WWI help the US economy grow?				
What natural advantages did the USA have? (Think resources)				
How did Republican policies contribute to economic growth? (Think taxes, tariffs and laissez-faire)				
What was the contribution of mass consumption and advertising? (Consumerism)				
What specific contribution did the automobile industry make towards economic growth? (Think cycle of prosperity)				
What new industries and methods contributed toward economic growth?				
What was 'hire purchase'?				
How and why was electricity so important to economic growth?				
What was 'speculation'? Why did people do it?				
Did everyone benefit from the economic boom?				
What problems faced agriculture in the 1920s? (<i>Think declining exports, competition, tariffs, falling prices, over production</i>)				
What happened to Traditional Industries? (<i>Coal, textiles, ship building</i>)				
How widespread was 'poverty' in the 1920s?				
Key Question: How far did society change in the 1920s?				
What do we mean by the term 'Roaring Twenties'?				
What changes in Radio entertainment took place?				
Describe developments in jazz music				
How did cinema expand in the 1920s?				
Who were the flappers? What did they represent?				

Sub Question: How far did the role of women change in the 1920s?
(Think what changed but what remained the same?)

	Revised			
What were the traditional expectations / roles of women pre 1920s?				
How did war challenge these 'traditional' roles / expectations?				
How did Flappers challenge these expectations?				
What employment opportunities developed for women?				
What advances in political life did women gain?				
What were the limits of the changes for women in this period?				




How tolerant was society in the USA in the 1920s?

What do we mean by the terms 'melting pot' and 'salad bowl'? Which one was the USA + why?				
What immigrations laws were passed in the early 1920s to restrict immigration?				
What was the Red Scare? (And the Palmer raids)				
Who were Sacco and Vanzetti? Why were they persecuted?				
What were the Jim Crow laws? What was segregation and how widespread was it?				
Who were the Ku Klux Klan?				
What improvements in society did African Americans gain in the 1920s?				

Sub Question: Why was Prohibition introduced and then later repealed?

What was the 18 th Amendment (to the American Constitution)?				
Who campaigned for prohibition and why? <i>(Think Anti-Saloon League and Women's Christian Temperance Union)</i>				
What were 'bootleggers'?				
How was prohibition 'policed'? What were the problems of policing prohibition? <i>(Think corruption and public attitudes)</i>				
What was the role of gangsters like Al Capone's in defying prohibition?				
Why was prohibition repealed? (Why did fail?)				

Key Question: What were the causes and consequences of the Wall Street Crash?

	Revised			
What was the wall Street Crash?				
How did speculation contribute to the Wall St Crash?				
How did the Crash impact on the US banking system?				
What general weaknesses in the economy contributed to the Crash?				
What were the economic consequences of the Crash?				
What were the social consequences of the Crash? (<i>Think human cost: poverty, hardship, unemployment, Hooverilles etc</i>)				

Sub question: Why did Roosevelt win the 1932 election?

How did Hoover respond to the Wall St Crash and effects of the depression? (<i>Was he really the 'do nothing' President?</i>)				
Who were the Bonus Marchers? Why did they matter?				
What was effective about Roosevelt's election campaign?				

Key Question: How successful was the New Deal?

What was Roosevelt's first 100 Days?				
What were the main features of the First New Deal (<i>Think Relief, Recovery and Reform</i>)				
Why did the Supreme Court Challenge the First New Deal?				
What was the Second New Deal? How different was it to the First New Deal? (<i>Think focus and Alphabet Agencies</i>)				
Why did some people oppose the New Deal? (<i>Radical reformers, Republicans, businessmen and the Supreme Court</i>)				
Review: How successful was the New Deal?				

Paper 2 – Sources

- You do not need to have as detailed a knowledge of the following topics as this is a skills-based paper.
- However, what you do need is a very sound knowledge and understanding of the key people and events – **basically the ‘narrative’**.

How successful was the US Policy of Containment?				
Case Study 1: The Korean War?	Revised			
How / why was Korea divided at the end of WWII?				
Why did North Korea invade South Korea in 1950?				
What was the response of the US and the United Nations?				
Why was General MacArthur ‘replaced’?				
How did the ‘armistice’ come about?				
Review: How successful was US Containment in Korea?				
Case Study 2: The Cuban Crisis, 1958-62	Revised			
What was the Cuban Revolution?				
How and why did relations between Cuba and the US ‘sour’?				
What was the Bay of Pigs landing? Why did it fail?				
Why did Khrushchev place missiles in Cuba?				
How did the US (JFK) respond?				
Review: What was the outcome of the Cuban Crisis for US / Soviet relations?				
Case Study 3: The Vietnam War	Revised			
How / why was Vietnam divided after WWII?				
How / why did the US become involved in Vietnam? (Think domino theory + unpopularity of the South Vietnamese Government)				
How did President Johnson escalate the war?				
What tactics did both sides employ? (Which were better?)				

What was the TET offensive? How did this impact on US public support for the war?				
What was Vietnamisation? How successful was it? (How did the war end?)				
Review: How successful as US containment of communism in Vietnam?				

Exam Details:

Paper 1: (0977/12) - 2 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who was to blame for the Cold War? How secure was Soviet Control of Eastern Europe? USA Depth Study 	10 MAY (AM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 x 4,6,10-mark questions 60 marks in total
Paper 2: (0977/22) -1 hour 45 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source Paper: From Korean War, Cuban Crisis, Vietnam War. 	14 MAY (AM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6/7 Sources 5 questions 40 marks in total
Paper 4: (0977/42) 1 hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Depth Study 	20 MAY (AM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 two part question (from 2!) A) 15m – Write an account. B) 25m – Explain importance / significance 40 marks in total