

A-LEVEL HISTORY

AT NEWCASTLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



BRITAIN AND THE WIDER WORLD

UNIT 1: BRITAIN 1930-1997

Topic Area	Homework Reading Complete	Homework Notes Made	Class Notes and Activities	Prefect Paragraph Complete
International Crisis				
1. Cold War				
2. Korean War				
3. Suez Crisis				
4. Falklands War				
5. Gulf War				
International Relations				
1. Britain and the USA				
2. Britain and the USSR				
Organisations				
1. Role in the UN				
2. Relationship with Europe				
Nuclear Deterrent				
1. Britain's Nuclear Deterrent				
Changing nature of the Commonwealth				
Decolonisation				

How will you use this course guide?

Each week you will be given summary notes. These will include:

- A response to each of the **KEY QUESTIONS**
- A description of each of the **KEY INDIVIDUALS**
- A definition for each of the **KEY TERMS**
- A response to each of the **STRETCH ACTIVITIES**
- A response to each of the **TEN QUESTIONS**

The exam questions provided are for revision purposes. Once we have completed the course you will be able to produce practice responses for the questions provided.

TOPIC AREA: ALEXANDER II REFORMS		10
WHY REFORM?	THEMATIC AREA: NATURE OF GOVERNMENT	KEY QUESTIONS
Alexander II's Own Views Alexander was no "liberal" in the broad sense of the term. He was fully committed to maintaining the tsarist autocracy and upholding his "given" duties. However, after enhancing the power of the nobility of Russia and restoring the country's dignity as a leading power of Europe. He accepted that Russia needed to change and believed that by granting limited freedoms and reforms, he would begin to stimulate a more dynamic economy, while preserving the basic political framework of his rule. Alexander was mindful of the dangers of extreme change and believed that some practical steps could and should be taken to lead Russia along the road towards economic modernisation. He was supported by other leading members of his family, his brother, the grand duke Constantine and his aunt the grand duchess Duchess Pavlovna. He was also surrounded by a number of "enlightened bureaucrats" who were keen to change the system along western lines. Nicholas Alexander Milyutin, the minister for military affairs 1859-61 (and brother to Dmitry, for example) was anxious to carry out military reform and had a good deal of influence in imperial circles. Alexander set the tone for reform when he addressed the Moscow nobility in 1855. He is reported to have said the following: <i>There are rumours abroad that I wish to grant the peasants their freedom; this is false, and you may say so to everyone to right and left; but I am weary of hostility between the peasants and landlords who unfortunately exist, and this has already resulted in several instances of insubordination to the landlords. I am convinced that sooner or later we must come to it. I believe that you too, are of the same opinion as I; consequently, I think better that this should come about from above, rather than from below.</i> Alexander's first actions on coming to power seemed to confirm his desire to rule in a more enlightened manner. He released political prisoners, pardoned those who had been involved in a plot to assassinate his father, relaxed controls on censorship, lessened restrictions on foreign travel and university entrance, cancelled the debts of those in arrears with their taxes and restored some of the liberties of Poland and the Catholic Church. Political Considerations The incidence of peasant unrest, had steadily increased in the decade up to the Crimean War as landowners had tried to drive their peasants to produce more, and peasants paying the military conscription escalated. There had been more than 300 separate peasant risings plus murders of landowners and bailiffs had grown more common, so threatening the social stability of the countryside.		What do you think is the most important reason for reform? How had Alexander II been influenced by individuals around him? Why might peasant unrest cause concern for the state?
		KEY INDIVIDUALS
		Alexander II Duchess Pavlovna Duke Constantine Nicholas Milyutin
		KEY DEFINITIONS
		Autocracy Modernisation Enlightened Obrok Agriculture Liberal

COLD WAR

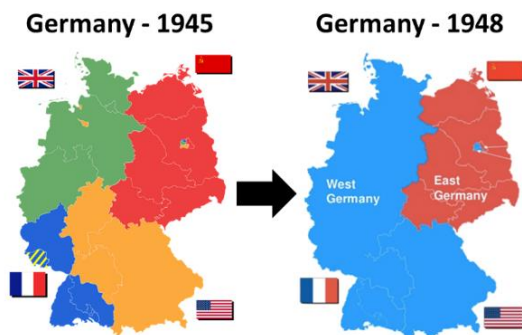
Europe was divided into two political and economic camps. There were the Western European countries – including Britain, France and USA – and the USSR and the Eastern Europeans communist states. Stalin wanted to see what the West would do if it was challenged.

Germany Divided

At the Potsdam Conference in 1945, the Grand Alliance had agreed to divide Germany, and its capital Berlin, into four separate zones controlled by the Soviet Union, the USA, Britain and France. The division was meant to be temporary but lasted many years. There were soldiers on the streets, in Berlin, and there were military checkpoints between zones.

Uniting the Western Zones

With the Soviets no longer co-operating, the remaining allies had to decide how to run their parts of Germany. In March 1948, they combined their zones into one zone, 'Trizonia'. The result was that Germany and Berlin were now split into two parts, western Trizonia and eastern Soviet-controlled Germany.



Then, in June 1948, the three Allies created a single currency, the Deutschmark, which became the currency of Trizonia. The Soviets were furious about the decision for two reasons:

- The new single currency in Trizonia meant that the two zones now became two separate economic states.
- This showed that there were two Germanys, West and East.

To Stalin, this was a further example of the West 'ganging up' on the Soviet Union. He was determined to make Germany one united country under communism.

The Berlin Blockade, 1948

Stalin knew that the Western-occupied zones of Berlin were in a weak position because they were surrounded by Soviet-occupied territory. In June 1948, Stalin decided to shut the land routes across Soviet-controlled Germany into Berlin, in what has become known as the Berlin blockade. He wanted to show the USA, Britain and France that a divided Germany would not work. The people of Berlin would soon run short of food. If the blockade was successful, Stalin would win a huge propaganda success. It might also mean that the Western powers would give up control of their zones in Berlin. The West could not get to Berlin by land without invading Soviet territory and risking war. Truman thought that the Allies could fly supplies in. He thought that Stalin would not be willing to risk war by shooting down a plane. The end of the Berlin blockade made the USA look stronger, as it had won without any casualties. The Soviet Union looked weak as it had backed down.

The formation of East and West Germany

After the Berlin blockade, it was clear that the division of Germany would continue. Britain, France and the USA quickly moved to create a separate West Germany named the Federal Republic of Germany. Stalin responded by creating the German Democratic Republic in October 1949. It became known as East Germany. For the next 40 years, people would talk about West Germany and East Germany but, for most of this time, each German regarded their own state as the only real one.

KEY QUESTIONS

How did international tensions increase during the Cold War?

What were the causes of the Cold War?

Did Britain manage international crises effectively?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Stalin

Truman

KEY DEFINITIONS

Trizonia

Berlin Blockade

Deutschmark

NATO

Warsaw Pact

Marshall Plan

Comintern

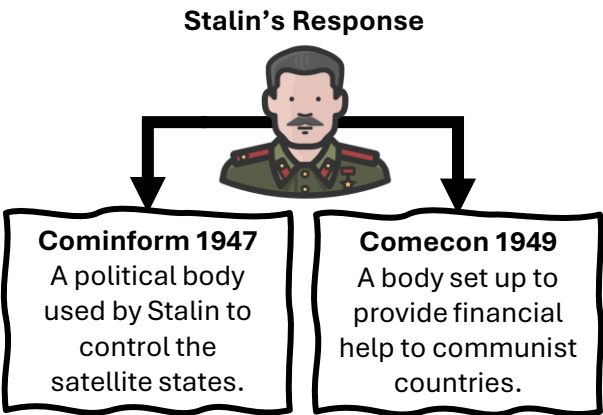
COLD WAR

Analysis of British involvement

Whilst the British did indeed have a strong commitment to defending Berlin, they were less confident than their American allies about the success of the airlift and more concerned about the adverse effect the blockade would have on German resilience. British economic weakness impacted their influence and the USA's confidence in their control. Analysis of British policy reveals significant differences between British and American attitudes in Berlin, and shows that the British had less influence over policy than has been previously suggested. However, to keep West Berlin supplied with grain, Britain diverted grain ships bound for Britain to German ports. This resulted in the introduction of bread rationing in Britain, which had not been rationed even during the height of the Second World War. The RAF flew over 65,000 missions supported by crews from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. British missions including civilian companies totalled 87,000.

Post War Economic Recovery

Marshall Plan 1947
USA provided economic aid to help war torn countries in Europe. The aim was to stop communism spreading, as communism seemed attractive to people who had nothing.



Post-War Military Alliances

	NATO	Warsaw Pact
Created:	1949	1955
Detail:	Military Alliance in the West. Members agreed if any member was attacked, all other members would aid them.	Military alliance in the East. Members agreed to defend each other in the case of a war.
Members:	USA/Britain/France and 9 other countries	Soviet Union, and 7 satellite states (Poland, Hungary etc)
Why was it created?	Berlin Blockade demonstrated there was a real danger of conflict with the Soviet Union. This alliance aimed to protect its members	Creation of NATO worried the Soviet Union. When West Germany joined NATO, the Warsaw Pact was made a week later
Impact on Relations:	Showed the West was prepared to use military force	Warsaw Pact was a threat to the West. It also showed that Europe was divided in two militarily

EXAM QUESTIONS

Assess the extent to which Britain managed international crises effectively?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

Assess Britain's strengths and weaknesses in dealing with international crises.

What does the Cold War reveal about Britain's relationship with the USA/USSR?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

THE KOREAN WAR

At the end of the Second World War 1945, Korea is divided at the 38th Parallel, with the Soviet Union occupying the north and the United States the south. This demonstrates the communist influence of the Soviet Union in North Korea. 25th June 1950, North Korean forces invade the South, overwhelming the ill-equipped South Korean army. The Soviet Union support the North Korean's with military equipment and resources. The same day, the UN Security Council – in the absence of the USSR which is boycotting it – votes to condemn the North Korean invasion and calls upon member states to provide military assistance to South Korea. In July, the United States, Britain and others send naval and air forces, and then land forces, stabilising the situation. After initial success for the Western Allies, in October the war swings back the other way as



Communist China intervenes to prevent the collapse of North Korea; initial attacks in October are followed by a huge offensive in November which throws back the UN forces. By May 1951 however, the Chinese advance runs out of steam, is halted and then pushed back, with the line between the two sides stabilising around the 38th Parallel. By Summer 1951, the two sides start negotiations but these drag on – deadlocked over the issue of whether communist prisoners should be returned home against their will – and the fighting continues for two more years. The war doesn't end until July 1953, the new Eisenhower administration taking office and the death of Stalin in March 1953 helps to break the deadlock, and in July 1953 an armistice is signed, ending hostilities with Korea but the country is still divided.

Analysis of British Involvement

Britain had shown it would take part in defending independent states supporting the UN and working alongside the USA. The North Korean invasion was defeated and South Korea protected. However, political and strategic control of the war remained firmly in American hands and underlined that British were junior partners. British and Commonwealth forces made an important contribution but they were dwarfed by the American commitment. Over 81,000 British service personnel were deployed during the Korean war. This was the second largest international contribution after that of the United States in support of the UN response. By the time the war ended, the British had suffered almost 700 killed in action but the Americans had lost nearly 34,000.

Clement Attlee made a statement on 28 June 1950 announcing the decision to make British naval forces available to the US to operate on behalf of the UN. On 5 July, the House of Commons agreed a motion in support of the Government's actions without division. British ground troops arrived the following month. The British influenced the fateful decision in September 1950 to invade the North but the majority of the troops involved were American. However, Britain had demonstrated loyalty to the USA and helped to check communist aggression and to establish the UN as an effective agency.

As a result of the war, NATO established a permanent military bureaucracy that even more firmly tied the USA to the defence of Europe. Although, the increased defence

KEY QUESTIONS

How did international tensions increase during the Korean War?

What were the causes of the Korean War?

Did Britain manage international crises effectively?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Stalin

Eisenhower

KEY DEFINITIONS

38th Parallel

UN

Commonwealth

NATO

THE KOREAN WAR

expenditure only added to the difficulties of Britain's economy, which was still struggling to recover from the impact of Second World War. Defence spending reached almost 10% of GDP in the 1950s – with a budget of £14 billion towards defence.

Your Ten Questions

1. Define 38th Parallel.
2. Which area of Korea dominated by communist influence?
3. In which month did initial attacks occur?
4. Which power boycotted the UN Security Council?
5. When did sides begin negotiations?
6. When did the Korean War end?
7. Which president took office during the Korean War?
8. Which Russian leader died during the Korean War?
9. How many British and American casualties were there?
10. What was the impact of the Korean War on the British economy?



EXAM QUESTIONS

How successfully did Britain respond to international crises in the period 1951-1997?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

Assess Britain's strengths and weaknesses in dealing with international crises.

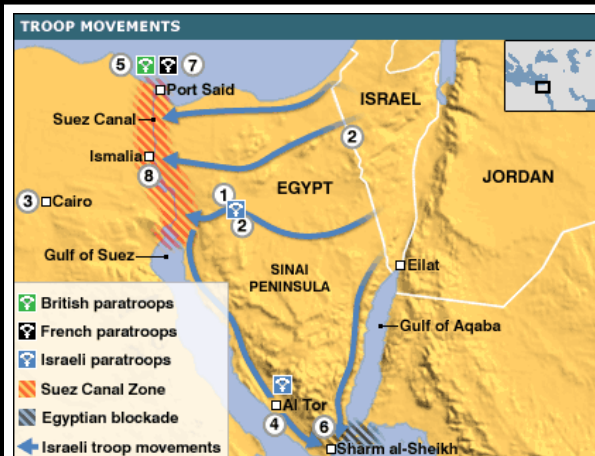
What does the Korean War reveal about Britain's relationship with the USA/USSR?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

THE SUEZ CRISIS



The Suez Canal was a vital sea route by which Middle Eastern oil was transported to Europe and British forces reached their Far Eastern bases. Since 1875 the British government had been the majority shareholder in the company running it.

In 1952 the pro-British King of Egypt was overthrown by a group of military officers who blamed him for the feeble performance of the

Egyptian army in the war against the new state of Israel in 1948-49. One of the officers, Gamal Abdel Nasser, proclaimed himself president of Egypt in 1954. Determined to remove British influence, Nasser immediately negotiated the withdrawal of British troops from their remaining base in the zone around the Suez Canal. Nasser was an Egyptian nationalist, not a communist but was prepared to buy arms and accept aid from USSR.

In December 1955, the American and British government agreed to lend Egypt the money to build large dam designed to help modernise its economy. But they soon had second thoughts because Nasser was reluctant to follow pro western policies. In mid July 1956 the offer of the loan was withdrawn. Nasser responded by taking control of the Anglo-French company that ran the Suez Canal. The Americans sponsored a series of diplomatic manoeuvres to try and solve the crisis peacefully, but without success. British Prime Minister Anthony Eden, who had taken office in 1955, regarded Nasser's seizure of the canal as an outrage. He believed that;

- It was the first step in a plan to establish Egyptian domination of the Middle East
- Nasser would allow the USSR to extend its influence in the region
- The US accepted that continued British influence in the Middle East was essential to preventing the area falling under Soviet influence
- Because nearly a 1/3 of the ships using the canal were British, and more than 2/3 of the oil supplied to western Europe passed through it, Nasser's action amounted to having 'his thumb on our windpipe'.

Eden concluded that Nasser had to be challenged by force if necessary, and hoped to use the crisis to overthrow his regime. The French also disliked Nasser because he was assisting the rebels fighting to end French colonial rule in Algeria. In late October and early November, the French and British in collusion with the Israelis, attacked Egypt. The Anglo-French invasion failed: Nasser responded to the invasion by sinking ships in the canal, preventing its use. President Eisenhower, who has not been consulted about the attack, insisted on the withdrawal of the invading forces. Humiliated by both Nasser and Eisenhower, Eden resigned in January 1957.

Analysis of British involvement

Around 45,000 British troops were involved in Operation Musketeer (codename for the November 1956 Anglo-French military operation). Sixteen were killed and 96 wounded at Suez. 900 Egyptian soldiers were killed and tens of thousands were taken prisoner. Nasser's action was not illegal. Even the British Cabinet recognised that his action amounted to no more than a decision to buy out the shareholders who he promised to compensate. This highlighted Eden's mistake which was further

KEY QUESTIONS

How did international tensions increase during the Suez Crisis?

What were the causes of the Suez Crisis?

Did Britain manage international crises effectively?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Nasser

Eden

Eisenhower

KEY DEFINITIONS

Suez Canal

THE SUEZ CRISIS

enforced by the USSR who condemned the invasion as imperialist.

President Eisenhower was furious about the invasion because he had repeatedly made it clear to Eden that he opposed the use of force. He felt deceived by the collusion between Britain, France and Israel. The invasion coincided with the USSR's invasion of Hungary to crush efforts at reform there and the Suez invasion made it difficult for him to condemn the USSR. On 4 November the United Nations threatened Britain with sanctions if there were any civilian casualties from British aerial bombing of targets in Egypt. This led to economic panic in the first week of November 1956 and resulted in tens of millions of pounds being lost from the country's reserves. Britain faced having to devalue its currency. Appalled that military operations had begun without his knowledge, US President Eisenhower put pressure on the IMF to deny Britain any financial assistance. With few options Eden reluctantly accepted a UN proposed ceasefire.

The crisis had a serious impact on Britain's international relationships. Several recently independent former-British colonies were against the conflict. Only Australia supported Britain, while Pakistan threatened to leave the Commonwealth. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev attacked 'British imperialism', threatening to attack London with rockets, as well as sending troops to Egypt, potentially dragging NATO into the conflict. President Eisenhower believed that, as a result of the Suez conflict, a power vacuum had formed in the Middle East due to the loss of prestige of Great Britain and France. Eisenhower wanted this vacuum filled by the United States before the Soviets could step in to fill the void.

Within Britain the conflict divided opinion. The Conservative government faced significant hostility from the Labour opposition and even experienced division in its own party. Intervention in Suez was initially popular with the British public, but following the humiliation caused by the conflict the government rapidly lost the support of the country. Nation-wide anti-war protests sprung up and several civil servants resigned in protest.

Your Ten Questions

1. Why did Britain hold interest in the Suez Canal?
2. When was the pro-British King of Egypt overthrown?
3. Which individual became the president of Egypt?
4. When was the offer of a loan withdrawn?
5. What fraction of the ships using the canal were British?
6. What fraction of oil supplying West Europe passed through the canal?
7. When did the Anglo-French invasion begin?
8. What was Eisenhower's response to the attack?
9. What was the impact of the Suez Crisis on British leadership?
10. Which invasion coincided with the crisis?

EXAM QUESTIONS

Assess the extent to which Britain managed international crises effectively?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

Assess Britain's strengths and weaknesses in dealing with international crises.

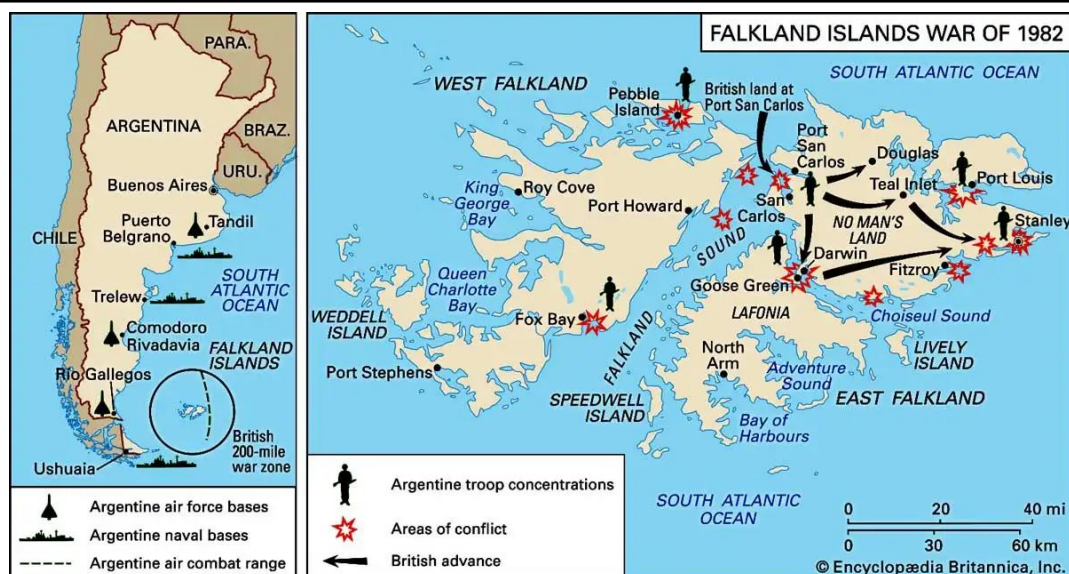
What does the Suez Crisis reveal about Britain's relationship with the USA?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

THE FALKLANDS WAR



On 2nd April 1982 Argentine forces invaded and captured the Falkland Islands, a British colony in the South Atlantic approximately 400 miles from the Argentine coast and 8000 miles from Britain. Argentina's brutal military dictatorship Believed that Britain would not have the will or means to retake the islands. The British government had to decide whether to risk military defeat by attempting to recapture the islands or suffer a loss of prestige by abandoning the islands British population to Argentine rule.

On 5th April Thatcher's government dispatched a task force of ships and troops to retake the islands. On May 2nd a British submarine sank the General Belgrano and Argentine cruiser with the loss of 360 lives and a few days later, an Argentine missile destroyed HMS Sheffield a British warship, killing 20. On May 21st British troops landed on East Falkland. As the troops advanced, the Argentine air force continued to attack British ships, sinking several, but losing planes in the process. On 14th June British forces entered the capital and the Argentine forces surrendered.

Analysis of British Involvement

Thatcher reacted swiftly to the invasion. A task force of 127 ships and 25,000 troops was assembled quickly and set sail three days after the invasion. The UN at Britain's request demanded the withdrawal of Argentine forces ensuring that Britain's actions were justified in law. It was clear that Thatcher had the backing of the UN and also other European nations who imposed sanctions on Argentina. The Argentine forces were not matched to the professionalism and the high-level training of the British army. This was true as the Argentine Navy played little part in the conflict, possibly cowed by the loss of the Belgrano. President Reagan, though a close friend of Thatcher did not think the islands were not worth a war. Although the US felt mediation was the best way forward, they provided a task force with weapons and intelligence to aid the British.

Thatcher's personal political fortunes were transformed by the war and this contributed to her victory in 1983 election. She used the victory to boast of a restored British greatness and many admired her resolution and skill that made this happen. The war also enforced that the British could not go to war without active support of the USA. The war cost Britain around £2.8 billion equal to 5.3% of GDP. 907 lives were lost during the conflict: 649 Argentinian, 255 British and three Falkland Islanders.

KEY QUESTIONS

How did international tensions increase during the Falklands War?

What were the causes of the Falklands War?

Did Britain manage international crises effectively?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Thatcher

Reagan

KEY DEFINITIONS

Falkland Islands

Dictatorship

General Belgrano

UN

Mediation

THE FALKLANDS WAR

Critics of the war regarded it as a costly enterprise of little real significance which also left Britain with the substantial costs of maintaining a military presence to continue to defend the islands. In the 1990s, the annual cost to maintain the defence of the Falklands Islands was estimated to be over £60 million.



Your Ten Questions

1. When did Argentine forces invade and capture the Falkland Islands?
2. Where are the islands located?
3. When did Thatcher dispatch a task force to retake the islands?
4. How many lives were lost following the sinking of the General Belgrano?
5. When did the Argentine forces surrender?
6. How many days after the invasion did the task force set sail?
7. What were Reagan's views regarding the conflict?
8. What was the political impact of the war?
9. What did the war reveal about Britain and the support of the USA?
10. What were the criticisms of the war?

EXAM QUESTIONS

Assess the extent to which Britain managed international crises effectively?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

Assess Britain's strengths and weaknesses in dealing with international crises.

What does the Falklands War reveal about Britain's relationship with the USA?

SUMMARY NOTES

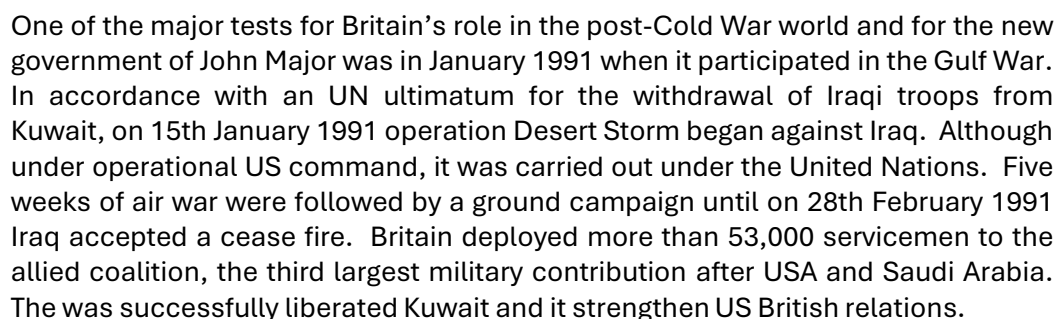
Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

How did international tensions increase during the Gulf War?

What were the causes of the Gulf War?

Did Britain manage international crises effectively?



Throughout the war, the RAF had played a prominent role on equal footing with the US Air Force and British forces had also been essential in the co-ordination of naval movements. Britain's unequivocal support of the United States throughout the crisis did a lot of reinvigorate the "special relationship" for which there had been fears following the end of the Thatcher-Reagan era. However, the war did come at a cost. The total cost of Operation Granby, the British military operations during the Gulf war, was £2.4 billion. Primarily Kuwait and Saudi Arabia contributed to such expenses. Approximately £200 million of equipment was lost during the conflict.

One of the aims of the United States and Britain had been to eliminate Saddam, but to pursue that to the end meant continuing armed action of Iraqi territory leading to the seizure of the capital Baghdad. The US did not feel justified in carrying out such an undertaking. President Bush believed it would break up the coalition against Iraq which had been committed to liberating Kuwait only. In this Britain again followed the American lead. However, Iraq's effective defeat had increased instability within Iraq. The Iraqi regime turned its full military potential against the Kurds and the Shi'ite Arabs of Southern Iraq following rebellions. With the humanitarian situation deteriorating steadily, the international community had to step in. Upon largely, British initiative, safe havens were created in Northern and Southern Iraq over which "non-fly zones" for the Iraqi air force were imposed.

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Major

Bush

Saddam Hussein

KEY DEFINITIONS

UN

Desert Storm

Cease fire

Special relationship

THE GULF WAR

International troops, including British forces were sent to monitor Iraqi observation of these rules. Britain was breaching its long-standing policy of non-intervention in other countries domestic affairs – however this was based purely on humanitarian reasons.

The operation was successful but there were problems:

- Saddam Hussein was allowed to maintain control of Iraq. He took revenge by persecuting his domestic enemies, especially the Iraqi Kurds, a minority who had risen in revolt against him
- The war was seen by many in the Middle East as British and American imperialism, despite the coalition with Arab states
- Iraq continued to be an issue for Britain and the USA and in 2003 much more controversial joint action was taken which resulted in the removal of Hussein



Your Ten Questions

1. When did Operation Desert Storm begin?
2. When did Iraq accept a cease fire?
3. How many British servicemen were deployed to the allied coalition?
4. Which military force played a prominent role during the Gulf War?
5. What were President Bush's views regarding the elimination of Hussein?
6. Where were non-fly zones established?
7. Which individual maintained control of Iraq?
8. How was the war viewed by many in the Middle East?
9. How did Hussein respond to the conflict?
10. When was controversial joint action taken following the Gulf War?

EXAM QUESTIONS

Assess the extent to which Britain managed international crises effectively?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

Assess Britain's strengths and weaknesses in dealing with international crises.

What does the Cold War reveal about Britain's relationship with the USA?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

BRITAIN AND THE USA

1950s:

PM MACMILLAN (CONSERVATIVE) & PRESIDENT EISENHOWER (REPUBLICAN)

The Suez Crisis had led to the resignation of Prime Minister Anthony Eden and the new Conservative leader – Harold Macmillan was left to repair the relationship with the United States. The crisis had demonstrated that Britain could no longer act independently of, and certainly not in opposition to, the United States. Despite Eisenhower's fury, the crisis did little permanent damage to Anglo-American relations because Macmillan exploited his wartime friendship with Eisenhower and made it clear that the US alliance was central to Britain's foreign policy.

1960s:

PM MACMILLAN (CONSERVATIVE) & PRESIDENT KENNEDY (DEMOCRAT)

President Kennedy and Prime Minister Macmillan developed a genial relationship in which Kennedy regarded Macmillan as a political father figure. Kennedy sought Macmillan's advice over the two great crises of their joint period of rule – the Berlin crisis of 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Despite the fact that during the latter Kennedy telephoned Macmillan late into several nights to discuss key issues, Britain's role in both of these crises was small. However, Macmillan can be credited with getting both the USA and the USSR to sign up to the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty in 1963 following the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis. He had continued to press for this to happen during the period 1959-63.

1960s:

PM WILSON (LABOUR) & PRESIDENT JOHNSON (DEMOCRAT)

When Harold Wilson took office in 1964, he insisted that unless Britain remained a world power it would be "nothing". Such a statement was rooted in the understanding that to be considered a "Great Power" Britain must continue to possess overseas territories and military bases. Wilson's views were enhanced by those of the new US President Lyndon Johnson who was keen to maintain British military bases east of Suez so that the US could have access to them. In the summer of 1965 a secret Anglo-American deal was agreed in relation to this issue. However, in reality economic issues meant that Britain was not able to maintain control of all of its overseas bases. Defence Review's in 1966 and 1967 called for reduction in defence spending and recognised that the core of Britain's defence strategy lay with the collective security of NATO and the United Nations. In 1968 the government confirmed that British forces would withdraw completely from Singapore, Malaysia and the Gulf to the disappointment of the Americans.

The most serious issue dividing Britain and the United States was the war in Vietnam. In 1965 when the Americans looked to increase the deployment of US troops in Vietnam, Wilson requested an audience with Johnson to counsel against further US military involvement. His efforts were deeply resented. The US failed to understand the British government's position. The anti-American feeling within the left of the Labour Party and its thin parliamentary majority following the 1964

KEY QUESTIONS

To what extent were positive relations maintained between Britain and the USA?

What factors impacted relations between the US and Britain?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Eisenhower

Kennedy

Johnson

Nixon

Carter

Reagan

Bush
Clinton

KEY DEFINITIONS

Suez Crisis

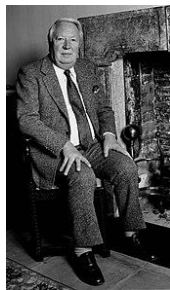
Cuban Missile
CrisisNuclear Test-Ban
Treaty

NATO

EEC

BRITAIN AND THE USA

election accounted for Wilson's stubborn resistance to US pressure. As well as refusing to send British troops to Vietnam; in June 1966 he publicly criticised heavy US bombing of North Vietnam and in 1967 he attempted to broker a peace deal. These actions irritated Johnson.



1970s:

PM HEATH (CONSERVATIVE) & PRESIDENT NIXON (REPUBLICAN)

During the premiership of Edward Heath relations with the USA were distinctly cool. Heath believed that Britain's future lay with Europe and had campaigned in the 1970 election of securing Britain's entry to the EEC. The Americans approved of Britain's efforts to join the EEC viewing Britain as a potential useful mediator between Europe and the USA. However, it was exactly this point that had made the Europeans, especially France, suspicious of a Britain whose close Atlantic link might disturb the relative harmony of the EEC. Heath recognised these fears and was doubly careful to not appear too close to the American government. He demonstrated his European credentials in 1973 when Nixon called for a new Atlantic Charter. He stated that he was only willing to negotiate from a common position with the other European powers. Britain joined the EEC in 1973 and its foreign policy became more European.



1970s:

PM CALLAGHAN (LABOUR) & PRESIDENT CARTER (DEMOCRAT)

Warmer relations were restored by the personal chemistry between James Callaghan and Jimmy Carter. Both ex-sailors the two men developed a strong relationship. Carter made a visit to Britain in 1977 which included a special trip to Tyneside, where Callaghan coached him to shout "Howay the Lads" to the delight of Newcastle fans.



1980s:

PM THATCHER (CONSERVATIVE) & PRESIDENT REAGAN (REPUBLICAN)

The "special relationship" was perhaps never stronger than during the Thatcher-Reagan era. Elected in 1981, Reagan's wife Nancy described the pair as "political soulmates". The pair shared similar economic philosophes and both initially took a strong anti-Communist line and Thatcher succeeded in getting US backing over the Falklands War in 1982. The Ronald Reagan library identified Thatcher as Reagan's most prolific correspondent among heads of state and notes that they exchanged hundreds of letters, messages and phone calls.



One area in which tensions did however emerge in the relationship was over Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) launched in 1983. This ambitious plan aimed to create an anti-missile system on the ground and in space which would act as a nuclear shield over the United States. Thatcher was unhappy that the "Star Wars" programme (as it became known) failed to consider the security of Western Europe, whom would now become, she argued, more vulnerable to an attack from the Soviet Union. Thatcher maintained a pro-nuclear deterrent line – believing that it had been vital in maintaining peace in Europe. Thatcher had a stormy meeting with the President at which she secured an agreement that any further

EXAM QUESTIONS

How well did Britain manage its relationship with the USA from 1951 to 1997?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

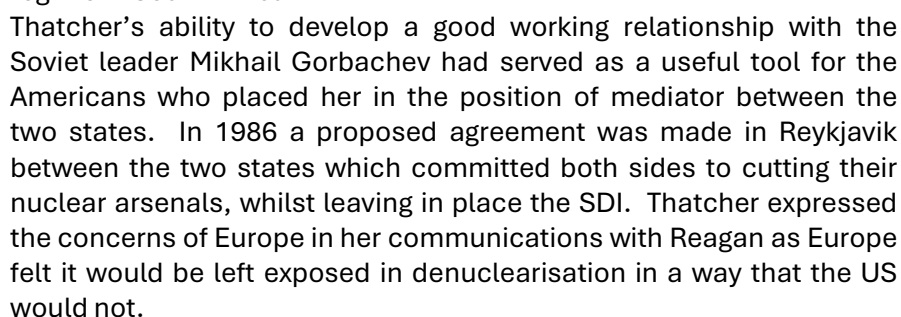
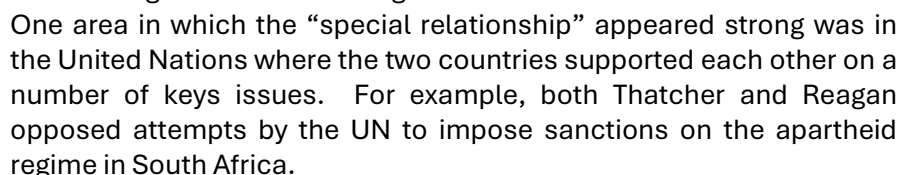
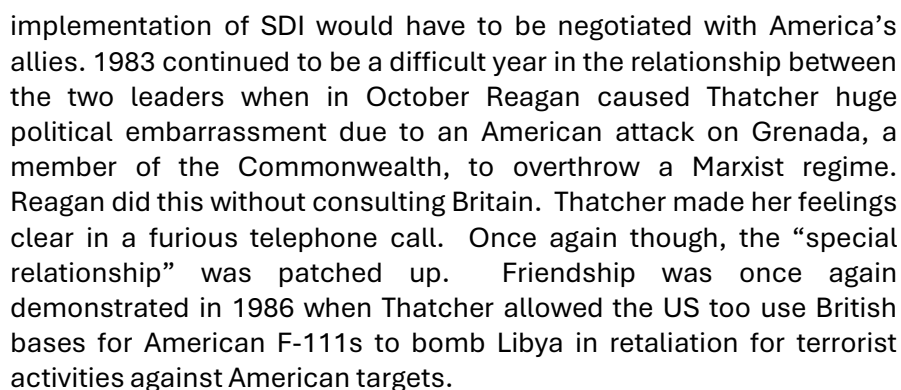
Which Prime Minister demonstrated the greatest success in managing relations between the USA and Britain?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

EXAM QUESTIONS



The relationship in the 1990s was one of cooperation between the two powers. Britain supported the USA in the Gulf War in 1991 both in the United Nations and in providing British forces to fight against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces. After some initial disagreements, the European NATO powers, including Britain agreed to co-operate with the USA in a bombing campaign against the Bosnian Serbs in retaliation for the 1995 massacre of Muslims in the Srebrenica refugee camp, and also co-operated in bringing about the Dayton Peace Accords which ended the conflict.



1. Give one key detail regarding relations between Macmillan and Eisenhower.
2. Give one key detail regarding relations between Macmillan and Kennedy.
3. Give one key detail regarding relations between Wilson and Johnson.
4. Give one key detail regarding relations between Heath and Nixon.
5. Give one key detail regarding relations between Callaghan and Carter.
6. Give one key detail regarding relations between Thatcher and Reagan.
7. Give one key detail regarding relations between Major and Bush
8. Give one key detail regarding relations between Major and Clinton.
9. Which PM/President relationship was the strongest? Why?
10. Which PM/President relationship was the weakest? Why?

Which Prime Minister/President relationship was the strongest? Justify your choice.

Which Prime Minister/President relationship was the weakest? Justify your choice.

BRITAIN AND THE USSR



Nikita Khrushchev

1953



Leonid Brezhnev

1964



Mikhail Gorbachev

1982



Boris Yeltsin

1985

1991

CONTEXT:

'Peaceful
Coexistence'

CONTEXT:

Britain in decline
economically and
in international
affairs

CONTEXT:

Personal
leadership style of
Thatcher and
decline and
collapse of USSR

CONTEXT:

New
Russia?

During the early years of the Cold War the Western powers, including Britain, had been fearful that the USSR wanted to invade, or at least destabilise, Western Europe and that a third world war was imminent. However, Stalin's death in March 1953 raised hopes that relations with the USSR might improve.

Peaceful Co-existence

The new Soviet leader, Khrushchev, initiated a policy of 'peaceful co-existence' with the west. This meant he wanted, if possible, to avoid war but to continue competition with the West for influence around the world:

- In October 1955, the British and Russian navies exchanged goodwill visits
- Khrushchev visited Britain in April 1956
- Harold Macmillan went to Moscow in Feb 1959

But these signs of a thaw in relations did not fundamentally change the mutual hostility between Britain and the USSR. Throughout the Cold War the British and Russians accused each other of imperialism.

- From the mid 1950s the USSR started bidding for the support of the nations of the Asia and Africa as they emerged from European colonial rule
- The West regarded the communist states of eastern Europe as part of a Soviet empire

The 1960s and 1970s

As the British withdrew from their colonial empire, the Russians regarded them as less important and concentrated their attention on the USA. However, Britain continued to regard the USSR as its principal potential enemy:

- Each side was involved in espionage – in September 1971 Britain expelled 105 Soviet diplomats accused of spying
- Britain and the rest of NATO were concerned about the build up on Soviet forces after the Cuban missile crisis

Thatcher and USSR

Margaret Thatcher, dubbed the iron lady by the Soviet media, made no secret of her anti-communism and was determined to retain Europe's nuclear defences, but this did not prevent her from saying in December 1984 that she liked the reformist Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, visiting Moscow in 1984 and hosting a return visit, which did much to calm Russian concerns about America and the Star Wars (SDI) initiative.

KEY QUESTIONS

To what extent were positive relations maintained between Britain and the USSR?

What factors impacted relations between the USSR and Britain?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Khrushchev

Brezhnev

Gorbachev

Yeltsin

KEY DEFINITIONS

Peaceful
Coexistence

NATO

Cuban Missile
Crisis

Iron Lady

BRITAIN AND THE USSR

The collapse of the USSR

The collapse of the USSR in December 1991 brought about an entirely new Anglo Russian relationship. The new Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, was grateful for the immediate diplomatic support he had received from Britain when Soviet hardliners had tried to seize power in August 1991. And British efforts during the 1990s helped pave the way for Russia to join the exclusive club of the worlds leading industrialised nations, which, with Russia's accession, became known as the G8. In November 1992 Yeltsin visited Britain to sign a set of wide ranging agreements on trade and military co-operation, He thanked John Major for him profound understanding of Russia and its reforms. The importance of London as a financial centre soon made it an attractive place for some Russian businessmen – who had become very rich by taking advantage of Yeltsin's liberalisation of the economy – to live and invest in.

Anglo-Russian relations during the period

Britain's relations with the USSR during the Cold War varied from outright hostility short of war to cautious, lukewarm and limited cooperation. During the Soviet period there were trade links, British tourists could visit the USSR and the Russians occasionally allowed cultural or sporting groups to visit the West. But with Britain firmly aligned with the USA, the USSR was regarded as Britain's principal potential enemy – an attitude reinforced by ideological hostility, propaganda and regular crises, although both sides were anxious to avoid a direct confrontation.

Your Ten Questions

1. Which Russian leader followed a policy of peaceful coexistence?
2. When did Khrushchev visit Britain?
3. Which PM visited Moscow in February 1959?
4. How many Soviet diplomats were expelled following accusations of spying?
5. What were Thatcher's opinions regarding Gorbachev?
6. When did the USSR collapse?
7. Define G8.
8. How did relations between the USSR and Britain change in the 1990s?
9. When did Yeltsin visit Britain to sign a set of agreements?
10. Where in Britain became an attractive city for Russian businessmen?

EXAM QUESTIONS

Assess the reasons for Britain's changing relations with the USSR.
[20 marks]

STRETCH

Which Prime Minister demonstrated the greatest success in managing relations between the USSR and Britain?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE UN

How has Britain's overseas policy been influenced by its role in the UN?

Britain, as one of the 'Big Three' victorious powers at the end of the Second World War, played a key role in establishing the United Nations in 1945.

The United Nations

The UN's executive body is the Security Council. It has five permanent members; the USA, the USSR, China, France and the UK. It also has ten (originally six) non-permanent members each elected for a two-year term. All members of the UN have a seat, and equal voting rights, in the General Assembly, but its resolutions are largely advisory.

Britain has played an important, though largely non-political, role in key UN agencies. One of the members of the fifteen judges in the International Court of Justice has always been British. Britain has also always been a member of the Economic and Social Council.



Along with China, the USSR and the USA, British diplomats were involved in drawing up the UN Charter. As a founding member, Britain also became one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, giving it considerable power and influence because each permanent member has a veto over Security Council decisions that are otherwise binding on all members.

The influence of UN membership on British policy

Membership of the United Nations has had a significant impact on British overseas policy because it has been important to British governments to present their actions as conforming to the principles of the UN. While Britain retained its colonial empire, its governments found themselves criticised, often by nations in Africa and Asia, as imperialist and in violation of the UN's commitment to human rights and freedom for people of all races. The British have used their Security Council veto sparingly but almost always when their policy appeared to lay them open to the charge of imperialism. For instance, the British veto was first used, in conjunction with France, during the Suez crisis when the USA and USSR accused them of trying to re-establish colonial power over Egypt.

UN CHARTER – KEY PRINCIPLES

- Maintenance of international peace and security
- Prevention of aggression
- Peaceful settlement of international disputes
- Addressing economic, social and cultural problems
- Promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination

KEY QUESTIONS

What was the impact of the UN on Britain's role during international crises?

What is the significance of the UN?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Ian Smith

Harold Wilson

Reagan

Thatcher

KEY DEFINITIONS

UN Charter

UDI

Patriotic Front

Tutsi

Hutu

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE UN

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

11th November 1965 – BBC news report

The Rhodesian Government, led by Prime Minister Ian Smith, has illegally severed its links with the British Crown. Mr Smith made the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) after days of tense negotiations with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson. British authorities were only prepared to permit independence on the basis of giving the black majority population a fair share of power. Under Mr Smith's system there will be white minority rule, where 220,000 white Rhodesians will enjoy privileges over nearly four million black Rhodesians. Harold Wilson told a packed and solemn House of Commons the Labour Government would not be sending troops to deal with the crisis. Instead he announced a full-range of sanctions including ceasing all British aid to and preferential treatment for Rhodesia, banning the import of Rhodesian tobacco and recalling the British High Commissioner.

The next day the United Nations Security Council condemned Mr Smith's regime in Rhodesia. The US immediately supported the British sanctions - with embargoes on arms exports and sugar imports - and the UN called for all its members to implement economic sanctions in 1966. France and the USSR abstained, but South Africa and Portugal - with its colony Mozambique - refused and their continued trading with Rhodesia was instrumental in keeping the Smith government afloat. Joshua Nkomo's Zapu and Robert Mugabe's Zanu parties overcame their differences to form the Patriotic Front (PF) to confront Ian Smith.

LIBYA

In 1986 US planes bombed targets in the Libyan capital, Tripoli as President Reagan said he had irrefutable evidence that Libya was responsible for a bombing at a West Berlin nightclub which killed two American servicemen. British PM Margaret Thatcher justified Britain's involvement in the campaign by supporting America's right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. However, the attack by the Americans generated criticism at the UN. Thatcher ordered that British representatives at the UN should veto the resolution condemning the Americans. Following this announcement of British backing, the extremist group Arab Revolutionary Cells murdered two British and one American hostage in Lebanon

RWANDA

Over the course of 100 days in 1994, the central African nation of Rwanda witnessed a genocide that was shocking for both the sheer number of its victims and the brutality with which it was conducted. Occurring during the chaos of a civil war in the country – the Hutu political elite who dominated the Rwandan government set about eliminating the Tutsi population in the country. An estimated 800,000 men, women, and children (more than 1 million by some estimates) were hacked to death with machetes, had their skulls bashed in with blunt objects, or were burned alive — but their plight was largely ignored by the rest of the world.

The United Nations' actions during the Rwandan Genocide remain controversial to this day, especially considering that they had received previous warnings from personnel on the ground that the risk of genocide was imminent. Although the UN had launched a peacekeeping mission in the fall of 1993, the troops were forbidden from using military force. Even when the violence kicked off in the spring of 1994 and 10 Belgians were killed in the initial attacks, the UN decided to withdraw its peacekeepers. Individual countries were also unwilling to intervene in the conflict.

KEY QUESTIONS

What was the impact of the UN on Britain's role during international crises?

What is the significance of the UN?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Ian Smith

Harold Wilson

Reagan

Thatcher

KEY DEFINITIONS

UN Charter

UDI

Patriotic Front

Tutsi

Hutu

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE UN

The U.S. was hesitant to contribute any soldiers after a failed 1993 joint peacekeeping mission with the UN in Somalia left 18 American soldiers and hundreds of civilians dead. John Major defended his decision not to send troops to Rwanda – he told MPs in July 1994 it was "simply not practicable" for the UN Security Council to become the "policeman of every part of the world"

The withdrawal of European troops only emboldened the extremists. A group of around 2,000 Tutsis who had taken shelter at a school guarded by UN troops in the capital of Kigali watched helplessly as their last line of defense abandoned them. One survivor recalled: "We knew the UN was abandoning us. We cried for them not to leave. Some people even begged for the Belgians to kill them because a bullet would be better than a machete." The troops continued their withdrawal. Mere hours after the last of them had left, most of the 2,000 Rwandans seeking their protection were dead. Finally, France requested and received approval from the UN to send their own troops to Rwanda in June of 1994. The safe zones established by French soldiers saved thousands of Tutsi lives — but they also allowed Hutu perpetrators to slip over the border and escape once order had been re-established.

Your Ten Questions

1. Give two key principles of the UN charter
2. Give two key roles played by Britain within the UN
3. What impact did the UDI have in relations with Southern Rhodesia?
4. What sanctions were placed on Rhodesia?
5. How did Thatcher justify British involvement in the US campaign in Libya?
6. Over how many days did the Rwandan genocide occur in 1994?
7. How many were killed during the genocide?
8. How did the UN respond to the Rwandan Genocide?
9. How did the actions of the UN impact Rwanda?
10. Which country established safe zones?

EXAM QUESTIONS

How far was Britain's role in international crises influenced by its position within the United Nations?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

What is the significance of Britain's role within the UN?

How did Britain's role within the UN influence foreign policy?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

BRITAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE

Why has Britain's relationship with Europe proved controversial?

The nature of Britain's relationship with Europe has divided opinion in the UK ever since the 1950s. However, in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War Britain's relations with Europe caused little domestic controversy.

- Britain played a central role in creating the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation set up in 1948 to administer Marshall Aid, the huge American aid package to help rebuild war torn Europe
- Britain was also one of the original signatories of NATO in 1949
- They were a founder member of the Council of Europe to help promote unity and human rights

It was with the development of the European Economic Community in the 1950s that more controversy emerged as moves towards European unity appeared to threaten national sovereignty. British interest was limited. Britain played no part in:

- The European Coal and Steel Community
- The meeting at Messina that led to the Treaty of Rome 1957 which established the European Economic Community in 1958

The Conservative governments of the 1950s did not join the EEC because:

- They hoped to make the colonial Empire and the Commonwealth into a trading bloc that would be stronger than the EEC
- They disliked the commitment to closer union contained in the Treaty of Rome
- They did not believe that France and Germany could overcome centuries of hostility to make the EEC a success

Domestic Division over Britain's role in Europe

Britain's relations with the EEC became a difficult issue in British domestic politics in the early 1960s. Harold Macmillan realised that Britain's colonial empire had no future and tried to establish a new relationship with Europe. By 1961, the scale of Britain's economic weakness convinced him and the pro Europeans in both major parties that Britain needed to join the Common Market.

Both major parties had influential groups opposed to Britain joining the Common Market because they believed the membership of the EEC would limit Britain's freedom to make its own decisions.

These divisions were starkly apparent when parliament debated the terms of British entry in 1973. Edward Heaths government could only secure a majority with the support of pro-European Labour MPs. When Labour returned to power in 1974, Wilson chose to tackle the divisions with in the party by holding a national referendum over membership in 1975. The 2:1 vote in favours demonstrated that the majority was vital to overcoming Britain's economic difficulties.

Thatcher and Europe in 1980s

One of the politicians playing a key role in campaigns for a yes vote in the 1975 referendum was the newly elected leader of the Conservatives, Margaret Thatcher. But once she became PM in 1979, she began to have doubts about Britain's role in Europe.

KEY QUESTIONS

How has Britain's relationship with Europe changed and developed between 1951 and 1997?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Heath

Macmillan

Wilson

Thatcher

Major

KEY DEFINITIONS

Marshall Aid

EEC

NATO

Maastricht Treaty

ERM

BRITAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE

- In 1980, convinced that Britain was making a disproportionately large contribution to the EEC budget, she demanded a rebate. It took 4 years of negotiation before she succeeded
- Thatcher and her supported thought that economic policy brought about economic recovery rather than the EEC
- In September 1988 in a speech in Bruges she spoke for many on the right of the Tories who regarded closer European integration as a threat to British sovereignty when she denounced what she called a European super state

But there were also members of the Tories who believed that Britain should continue to play a major role in Europe.

- They believed that the benefits to Britain of closer integration with the economies of Europe outweighed the disadvantages
- By 1989 some of Thatcher's senior ministers believed that inflation could be best tackled by Britain joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism – this led to her downfall

Major and the Maastricht Treaty

EXCHANGE RATE MECHANISM (ERM) AND THE MAASTRICHT TREATY

The Erm was established in 1979 to coordinate the exchange rates of the currencies within the EEC. The Maastricht Treaty committed members to full integration of their currencies, foreign policy and defence and changed the name of the community to the European Union.

The Eurosceptic wing of the Conservative Party which grew during Major's premiership, was emboldened by two issues:

- Britain's humiliating withdrawal from the ERM in 1992 and subsequent economic recovery confirmed them in their view that Britain did not benefit from European Membership
- The Maastricht Treaty brought together the Conservatives who wanted to leave the EEC with those who believed that the EEC should be no more than a trade partnership because of its implications for British sovereignty. They feared that the Treaty was another step towards making Europe into a federal state governed from Brussels

The pro-Europeans maintained that Eurosceptic fears were exaggerated and that:

- Britain benefited from being part of the world's largest single market
- The free movement of goods, capital and labour removed obstacles to business
- Common regulations on goods, working conditions, the environment and crime benefited all member countries
- The European Union attracted more investment into Britain from outside Europe than Britain could achieved alone

Throughout the post war period and into the 21st Century the British people have been divided about how far the country should cooperate with Europe. The division cuts across the political and social spectrum.

EXAM QUESTIONS

How significant was Britain's role within Europe between 1951 and 1997?
[20 marks]

STRETCH

Which factors affected Britain's relationship with Europe?

What are the most/least important factors affecting Britain's role within Europe?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

BRITAIN'S NUCLEAR DETERRENT

Arguments for and against Britain's Nuclear Deterrent

Arguments For:

- Attlee's Labour government decided to build a British nuclear bomb in 1947 because they feared that the USA might be unwilling to defend Europe
- The British nuclear deterrent continues to contribute to the defence of Western Europe
- Possession of an independent deterrent maintains Britain's 'great' power status

Arguments Against:

- In 1962, Macmillan persuaded President Kennedy to supply Britain with missiles to carry British warheads
- The British nuclear deterrent is irrelevant when measured against the size of the American and Russian nuclear arsenals
- The heavy costs in maintaining it reduce government investment in other areas such as education or health services and forms of defence

1950s

Pressure grew for nuclear weapons to be abandoned to make the world safer. In 1958 the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmaments (CND) was founded and began a series of annual protest marches from the nuclear weapons plant at Aldermaston in Berkshire to Trafalgar Square in London. The march in 1960 attracted as many as 100,000 protestors. However, supporters of the nuclear deterrent maintained that Britain needed to be strong to prevent Soviet aggression, even though it was clear by the 1960s that Britain needed US missiles to deliver its bombs. The Labour party was more divided on the issue of nuclear weapons than were the Conservatives.

1960s

In 1963, Britain joined the USSR and the USA in banning nuclear testing in space (Test-Ban Treaty), under water and in the atmosphere. Britain also signed the 1968 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty by which signatories agreed not to share nuclear technology with other nations. The continued build up on nuclear-armed missiles by both the USA and the USSR during the 1960s rendered the much smaller British deterrent increasingly insignificant.

1970s

The British played little part when the two superpowers (USA and USSR) negotiated the two Strategic Arms Limitations Treaties (SALT) in 1972 and 1979. This began a period known as Détente – a period of peace between two nations (US and USSR) who were previously hostile or at war. SALT 1 (1972) aimed to limit the number of weapons each side had. This improved relations between Nixon and Brezhnev as it resulted in visits of the leaders to their respective countries. SALT 2 tried to improve on SALT 1 by putting more limitations on nuclear weapons. However, SALT 2 was never put into action as there was still a lack of trust between US and USSR and upon the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the US government refused to accept SALT 2 in response, meaning the period of Détente came to an end.

1980s

Britain's role in the nuclear balance between East and West once again became controversial in the 1980s. In the mid-1970s the USSR had begun deploying SS-20 intermediate range missiles capable of hitting targets anywhere in Europe, and in 1979 the NATO powers agreed to deploy US intermediate range cruise missiles in

KEY QUESTIONS

What was the social impact of Britain's nuclear policy between 1951 and 1997?

What was the political impact of Britain's nuclear policy between 1951 and 1997?

What was the economic impact of Britain's nuclear policy between 1951 and 1997?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Attlee

Macmillan

Kennedy

Thatcher

KEY DEFINITIONS

CND

Test-Ban Treaty

SALT

Détente

NATO

BRITAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE

response. This decision increased the likelihood of Europe becoming a nuclear battleground. It also prompted a group of women in 1981 to set up a protest camp at the RAF and USAF base at Greenham Common in Berkshire. The camp was for women only and was to demonstrate opposition to the siting of US nuclear weapons on British bases. The camp lasted for nineteen years and became a potent symbol of women's rejection of war and violence.

One woman who did not sympathise with the Greenham Common protest was Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. She was alarmed by President Reagan's willingness, in his discussions with the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, to embrace what became known as the zero option – the complete abolition of nuclear weapons on both sides. She also believed that the abolition of nuclear weapons would leave Europe exposed to the conventional forces of the USSR, which were much larger than those of NATO. Although the zero option was not adopted, the collapse of the USSR in 1991 did lead to agreements by which both the USA and Russia significantly reduced their nuclear arsenals. At the end of the century, Britain's nuclear policy remained much like its foreign policy – nominally independent, but in reality dependent on the United States – as debate continued about the cost, ethical issues and viability of the nuclear option.

Impact of Britain's Nuclear Deterrent

Cost: Britain's spending on nuclear deterrence fluctuated significantly from 1950 to 1990, reflecting shifts in the Cold War and defense priorities. In the 1950s, following the successful testing of the first British nuclear bomb, defence spending rose significantly. By the late 1980s, it had decreased, with spending on defence remaining relatively high, between 4% and 5% of GDP, until 1988. The development and procurement of the Trident nuclear deterrent in the early 1980s, and the subsequent Strategic Defence Review, significantly impacted spending, leading to a total acquisition expenditure of £12.52 billion.

Political Divide: During the 1950s and 60s, the Labour party became increasingly divided regarding unilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament. Additionally following the proposal of the Trident nuclear system, the Conservatives faced opposition. The maintenance of the strategic nuclear deterrent and decision to acquire Trident was achieved by 316 to 248 votes. In 1982, Labour presented an amendment which sought to 'condemn the decision to purchase the Trident nuclear system' which was defeated on division by 215 to 201 votes. The main motion was subsequently approved by 297 to 248 votes. Despite approval, the vote did demonstrate continued opposition and controversy regarding the acquisition of Trident.

Your Ten Questions

1. Give two arguments for Britain's nuclear deterrent.
2. Give two arguments against Britain's nuclear deterrent.
3. When was the CND founded?
4. How many protestors attended the march in 1960?
5. When was the Test Ban Treaty?
6. Which treaty was signed in 1968?
7. What were the differences between SALT 1 and SALT 2?
8. What was the impact of women's protest in 1981?
9. Define zero option.
10. Which PM did not sympathise with the Greenham Common protest?

EXAM QUESTIONS

Assess the reasons why British nuclear defence policy was so controversial in the period 1945-97. [20 marks]

STRETCH

Why was Britain's nuclear policy controversial between 1951 and 1997?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

DECOLONISATION

Why did Britain grant independence to the majority of its colonies in the period 1957-1964?

Second World War

WW2 damaged European prestige. The nature of relationships between both Britain's colonial people and themselves had changed.

- The fall of Singapore to the Japanese and the collapse of Dutch and French empires showed that European rule was no longer invincible.
- Administrators had to change their ruling style to help provide more raw materials and foodstuffs – farmers resented selling to the govt at a fixed price.
- The colonies couldn't buy from Britain and were prevented from buying elsewhere – this led to the rise of nationalist movements
- The war saw greater unrest within the countries it ruled. India found itself wanting to withdraw quickly and so gained independence as well as Pakistan in 1947

Britain's Economic Weakness

Britain's economic weakness led to Britain exploiting the colonies even more.

- In 1948, the government set up the Colonial Development Corporation and established other projects e.g. the East African Groundnut Scheme - these helped to disrupt colonies even more, therefore hostility to British rule grew
- Britain could no longer supply capital and investment to its colonies.

The Growth of Colonial Nationalism

The growth of colonial nationalism was because many leaders started to emerge demanding immediate independence. They had often been educated in the West into ideals of freedom and democracy. They were encouraged by men such as Nasser and challenged ideas of white supremacy. When Macmillan toured Africa in 1960 he recognised that there were strong feelings of anti-colonial nationalism and spoke of 'the wind of change is blowing through this continent'. This had already been seen in the Gold Coast (Ghana) where the independence movement had insisted government of the country must be African. In some areas resistance was violent e.g. in Kenya a civil war was taking place between those who had and had not benefitted from colonialism. It resulted in a death toll of 14,000.

Impact of the Cold War

The Cold War was significant. USA wanted Britain to maintain all of its colonies especially African ones to resist the influence of communism. However, as protests grew in the Empire, both the USA and USSR rushed to create anti-colonial propaganda particularly as it was vital to persuade, as the size of the UN increased. The UN was becoming more ethnically diverse and criticising European empires, therefore the USA feared them resorting to communism. The Non Alignment Movement was formed in 1955 by many newly independent countries.

How successfully did Britain deal with the changing nature of the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth had become a diverse and multi-racial association of nations united only by their history as territories formerly ruled by Britain:

KEY QUESTIONS

How successful was Britain in its policy of decolonisation?

What was the impact of decolonisation?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

KEY DEFINITIONS

Colonial Development Corporation

Colonial Nationalism

Non-Alignment Movement

Commonwealth

DECOLONISATION

- The white ruled nations of South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand had been granted complete legislative independence in 1931 but retained important economic and strategic ties to Britain
- India, Pakistan and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) established a precedent by joining as republics and recognising the British monarch, not as head of state but merely as head of the Commonwealth
- During the Korean War, Commonwealth troops fought alongside the British and Americans

There were various tensions within the Commonwealth during this period.

- The 1956 Suez Crisis threatened Commonwealth unity because Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand supported Britain but India and Pakistan sympathised with Egypt
- The rapid dismantling of the British colonial empire in Asia and Africa between 1957 and 1964 considerably changed the nature of the Commonwealth as the newly independent nations joined.
- In 1961 South Africa left the Commonwealth rather than face the criticism of its apartheid policies from other members. During the 1970s and 1980s members of the Commonwealth repeatedly criticised Britain for its economic ties with South Africa, particularly the sale of armaments and Thatcher's government found itself isolated for refusing to impose economic sanctions on the apartheid regime.
- The 1962 Commonwealth Immigration Act was particularly resented by the black nations because it was clearly designed to limit black immigration into Britain
- Commonwealth unity was again seriously threatened by Britain's handling of the Rhodesian crisis.
- Britain itself sacrificed its preferential trade links with Commonwealth members such as New Zealand by joining the European Community in 1973

Despite the tensions and difficulties, the Commonwealth survived.

- Nelson Mandela's government in South Africa decided to re-join the Commonwealth within a month of being elected in 1994. This suggested that the Commonwealth remained a viable institution
- The 1995 Mozambique and Cameroon joined and became the first members of the Commonwealth with no historic ties to Britain
- The 1971 Singapore Declaration condemned racial prejudice and emphasised members' commitment to democratic values, international peace, equal rights and freedom of the individual. These principles were formally codified in the Commonwealth Charter adopted in 2012. Not all the Commonwealth nations could boast a spotless record adhering to these principles, and Nigeria membership was suspended between 1995 and 1999 for violating them

The Commonwealth has survived into the 21st century, in part because its head since 1952, Queen Elizabeth II is highly regarded by its members for her commitment to it. The Commonwealth despite its lack of obvious political power, remains a respected medium for cultural and economic exchange and for promoting important democratic values.

EXAM QUESTIONS

How well did Britain make the transition from Empire to Commonwealth in the period 1951-97? [20 marks]

The most important reason for decolonisation was the impact of the Second World War". How far do you agree? [20 marks]

STRETCH

How successfully did Britain deal with decolonisation?

SUMMARY NOTES

Notes Due:

Notes Completed:

DECOLONISATION

Why did Britain grant independence to the majority of its colonies in the period 1957-1964? Case Studies

MALAYA

Ethnically
diverse colony
45%
Chinese/40%
Malay/15%
Indian

1948-1960
Malayan
Chinese
Communists
began an
insurrection

40,000 British
and
Commonwealth
troops
succeeded in
war

Britain granted
independence
1957 to a govt
of
Conservative
Malays

GHANA

After riots in
1948 Britain
created an
elected
Parliament

However,
radical
nationalist
Nkrumah won
elections in
Ghana in 1951

Nkrumah agreed
to remain in
Commonwealth
– independence
in 1957

Nkrumah's
socialist
policies and
authoritarian
rule led to a
coup in 1966

NIGERIA

Region diverse
North Muslim
and rural
South Christian
and westernised

Britain imposed
federal
constitution
and gave power
to a coalition
(North)

Independence
given in October
1960 but ethnic
tensions
remained

Between 1967
and 1970 the
country
suffered a
destructive
civil war

KENYA

Kenya divided
Asian, white
settlers and
indigenous
black national
groups

In 1952 the
Kikuyu began a
guerilla
campaign
known as Mau
Mau uprising

Britain opposed
but Macmillan
saw that the
demands could
not be ignored

Independence
in 1963 Britain
withdrew
racial
divisions
remained

CYPRUS

1955 Greek
Cypriots began a
terror campaign
to expel British
authorities

25,000 British
troops were tied
down and
country divided
– 20% opposed

Macmillan led
to accepting of
independence
with Greek Pres
and Turkish VP

Continued
strife and
Turkish
invasion in
1974 led to the
partition

RHODESIA

200,000 whites
monopolised
power over 3
million black
civilians

1965 white
minority
declared
independence,
strong divide in
Britain

Wilson ruled out
force and used
trade sanctions
– settlement
with Ian Smith

Smith refused
to agree to
majority rule –
independence
official in 1980