

GCSE HISTORY: COLD WAR

Key Term – Topic 1	Meaning
Capitalism	An economic and political system where industry and trade are owned and controlled by private individuals or groups
Communism	A system of government where all industry and trade is owned by the state or the republic
The Grand Alliance	The alliance of Britain, USA and USSR during World War II
Conference	An international meeting to negotiate deals or end of the war agreements
Liberate	To free from control
Relations	Describes how countries or the Superpowers get on with one another
Sphere of influence	Area/countries that are controlled by one state
Atomic bomb	First nuclear weapon designed by USA
Reparations	Compensation for war damage
Satellite state	Countries or areas that are under the control of a dominant country
Buffer zone	A group of eastern European countries that form a protective layer before reaching the USSR.
“Iron Curtain”	An imaginary boundary separating the capitalist West from the communist East
Expansionism	A strong dominant country taking land from a smaller weaker country.
Containment	Using US influence and military resources to prevent the expansion of communism into non-communist countries
Standard of living	The things that people are able to afford and the quality of their life
Imperialism	To force your policies and way of life on countries that you have control over
Collective security	Countries working together to protect themselves
De-Stalinisation	To get rid of the policies that Stalin had introduced and to no longer be led by a dictator.
Peaceful coexistence	To accept the difference between countries and live without fighting side by side.

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Arms	Weapons
Hydrogen bomb	Second type of nuclear bomb made, more destructive than the atom bomb.
ICBM	Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
ABM	Anti-Ballistic Missiles
U2	Spy planes
Key Term – Topic 2	Meaning
Refugee	Someone who leaves their country because they are escaping persecution
Ultimatum	The final chance to do something before something serious occurs
Checkpoint Charlie	The name given to the famous crossing point in Berlin between East and West Germany during the Cold War
Nationalisation	Taking privately controlled companies and putting them under the control of the Government.
Revolution	Uprising or violent protest
Treaty	Agreement that is discussed and signed by two nations or more
Abolish	To get rid of
Censorship	This means the stopping of information or speech to prevent someone from thinking in a particular way
Key Term – Topic 3	Meaning
Détente	A period when the tension seemed to be more relaxed between the Superpowers in the Cold War
Arsenal	A place to store military weapons or bombs
SLBMs	Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles

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MIRVs	Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles, ballistic missiles designed to carry multiple nuclear warheads
SDIs	The Strategic Defence Initiative which was a plan for a ground and space based, laser armed anti-ballistic missile system.
Mujahedeen	Muslim guerrilla soldiers who fought against Communism in the Afghan war.
jihad	A 'holy war' against Communist leadership in Afghanistan
Perestroika	Gorbachev's policy of restructuring the Soviet economy
Glasnost	Gorbachev's policy of openness encouraging free expression and an end to censorship