Foxford Learning Plan

Year: 11

Topic: Superpower relations and the Cold War

Term: Autumn 2

Key Vocabulary	
Capitalism	An economic system based on private ownership, free markets, and competition; supported by the USA.
Communism	A political and economic system in which property and industry are owned by the state; supported by the Soviet Union.
Containment	The US policy of preventing the spread of communism to other countries.
Sphere	A region where a superpower has significant political, economic, or military influence.
Arms Race	Competition between the USA and USSR to build larger and more advanced weapons and military forces.
Deterrent	Maintaining powerful weapons, especially nuclear weapons, to discourage an enemy from attacking.
NATO	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance formed by Western countries in 1949.
Warsaw Pact	A military alliance of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite states, formed in 1955.
Détente	A period of improved relations and reduced tensions between the USA and USSR during the 1970s.
Proxy War	A conflict in which rival superpowers support opposing sides without directly fighting each other, such as in Korea and Vietnam.

Key Skills

Over the course of the topic, I will be able to

Chronological Understanding – sequencing key Cold War events between 1941 and 1991 and identifying patterns of change and continuity in superpower relations.

Historical Enquiry and Evidence – using accurate and relevant knowledge to support explanations, analyse events, and make substantiated judgements about the Cold War.

Causation and Consequence – explaining why key Cold War events occurred and assessing their short- and long-term consequences for the USA, USSR and the wider world.

Significance and Judgement – evaluating the importance of individuals, crises, policies and developments, and judging which factors had the greatest impact on superpower relations.



I will understand

How relations between the superpowers developed – from wartime cooperation during the Second World War to increasing rivalry and conflict during the Cold War.

The role of key individuals and leaders – how figures such as Stalin, Truman, Khrushchev, Kennedy, Reagan and Gorbachev influenced Cold War events and superpower relations.

The impact of ideology and government policies – including capitalism, communism, containment, détente and the policies used to strengthen each superpower's position.

How conflict, weapons and technology shaped the Cold War – including nuclear weapons, the Arms Race, the Space Race and crises such as Berlin and Cuba.

Continuity and change in superpower relations – understanding why tensions rose and fell over time and how Cold War relations changed between 1941 and 1991.