Foxford Learning Plan

Year: 11

Topic: Superpower relations and the Cold War

Term: Spring 1

Key Vocabulary

Ultimatum	A final demand that, if rejected, will result in further action; Khrushchev issued an ultimatum over Berlin in 1958.
Refugee	A person who leaves their country to escape danger or persecution; many East Germans fled to West Berlin.
Berlin Wall	A barrier built in 1961 to stop East Germans escaping to West Berlin.
Checkpoint Charlie	A crossing point between East and West Berlin where US and Soviet tanks famously faced each other in 1961.
Nuclear Missile	A weapon capable of carrying a nuclear warhead over long distances.
Cuban Missile Crisis	A thirteen-day confrontation in October 1962 caused by Soviet nuclear missiles being placed in Cuba.
Blockade	Preventing movement into or out of an area; Kennedy imposed a naval blockade around Cuba in 1962.
Hotline	A direct communication link established between Washington and Moscow after the Cuban Missile Crisis.
Prague Spring	A period of reform in Czechoslovakia in 1968 led by Alexander Dubček.
Brezhnev Doctrine	The Soviet policy stating that the USSR could intervene in any communist country where communism was threatened.

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.