Foxford Learning Plan

Year: 11

Topic: Superpower relations and the Cold War

Term: Spring 2

Key Vocabulary

Détente	A period of improved relations and reduced tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union during the 1970s.
Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)	Negotiations between the USA and USSR aimed at limiting the number of nuclear weapons each side possessed.
SALT I	The 1972 agreement that limited the development of certain nuclear weapons and anti-ballistic missile systems.
Helsinki Accords	A 1975 agreement in which countries recognised European borders and agreed to respect human rights.
SALT II	A 1979 agreement designed to further limit nuclear weapons, although it was never ratified by the USA.
Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan	The 1979 military intervention by the USSR in Afghanistan, which increased Cold War tensions and contributed to the end of détente.
Boycott	A refusal to participate in an event as a form of protest; the USA boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics.
Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI)	Reagan's proposed missile defence system, nicknamed 'Star Wars', designed to protect the USA from nuclear attack.
Perestroika	Gorbachev's policy of restructuring the Soviet economy and government in an attempt to improve efficiency.
Glasnost	Gorbachev's policy of greater openness, allowing more freedom of speech and criticism within the Soviet Union.

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.