1 Were the peace treaties of 1919–23 fair?

• What were the motives and aims of the Big Three at Versailles?

• Why did all the victors not get everything they wanted?

• What was the impact of the peace treaty on Germany up to 1923?

• Could the treaties be justified at the time?

**Specified Content**

• The peace treaties of 1919–23:

– the roles of individuals such as Wilson, Clemenceau and Lloyd George in the peacemaking process

– the impact of the treaties on the defeated countries

– contemporary opinions about the treaties.

2 To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

• How successful was the League in the 1920s?

• How far did weaknesses in the League’s organisation make failure inevitable?

• How far did the Depression make the work of the League more difficult?

• How successful was the League in the 1930s?

**Specified Content**

• The League of Nations:

– strengths and weaknesses in its structure and organisation: work of the League’s

agencies/humanitarian work

– successes and failures in peacekeeping during the 1920s

– the impact of the World Depression on the work of the League after 1929

– the failures of the League in the 1930s, including Manchuria and Abyssinia.

3 Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

• What were the long-term consequences of the peace treaties of 1919–23?

• What were the consequences of the failures of the League in the 1930s?

• How far was Hitler’s foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in 1939?

• Was the policy of appeasement justified?

• How important was the Nazi–Soviet Pact?

• Why did Britain and France declare war on Germany in September 1939?

**Specified Content**

• The collapse of international order in the 1930s

• The increasing militarism of Germany, Italy and Japan

• Hitler’s foreign policy to 1939:

– the Saar

– remilitarisation of the Rhineland

– involvement in the Spanish Civil War

– Anschluss with Austria

– appeasement

– crises over Czechoslovakia and Poland

– the outbreak of war.

4 Who was to blame for the Cold War?

• Why did the USA–USSR alliance begin to break down in 1945?

• How had the USSR gained control of Eastern Europe by 1948?

• How did the USA react to Soviet expansionism?

• What were the consequences of the Berlin Blockade?

• Who was the more to blame for starting the Cold War: the USA or the USSR?

**Specified Content**

• The origins of the Cold War:

– the 1945 summit conferences and the breakdown of the USA–USSR alliance in 1945–46

– Soviet expansion into Eastern Europe to 1948, and American reactions to it

– the occupation of Germany and the Berlin Blockade

– NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

5 How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?

This Key Question will be explored through case studies of the following:

• America and events in Korea, 1950–53

• America and events in Cuba, 1959–62

• American involvement in Vietnam.

**Specified Content**

• Events of the Cold War

• Case studies of:

– American reactions to the Cuban revolution, including the missile crisis and its aftermath

– American involvement in the Vietnam War, e.g. reasons for involvement, tactics/strategy,

reasons for withdrawal

– American reactions to North Korea’s invasion of South Korea, involvement of the UN, course of the war to 1953.

6 How secure was the USSR’s control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

• Why was there opposition to Soviet control in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, and how

did the USSR react to this opposition?

• How similar were events in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968?

• Why was the Berlin Wall built in 1961?

• What was the significance of ‘Solidarity’ in Poland for the decline of Soviet influence in Eastern

Europe?

• How far was Gorbachev personally responsible for the collapse of Soviet control over Eastern

Europe?

**Specified Content**

• Soviet power in Eastern Europe:

– resistance to Soviet power in Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968)

– the Berlin Wall

– ‘Solidarity’ in Poland

– Gorbachev and the collapse of Soviet control over Eastern Europe.

Depth Study D: The USA, 1919–41

1 How far did the US economy boom in the 1920s?

• On what factors was the economic boom based?

• Why did some industries prosper while others did not?

• Why did agriculture not share in the prosperity?

• Did all Americans benefit from the boom?

2 How far did US society change in the 1920s?

• What were the ‘Roaring Twenties’?

• How widespread was intolerance in US society?

• Why was Prohibition introduced, and then later repealed?

• How far did the roles of women change during the 1920s?

3 What were the causes and consequences of the Wall Street Crash?

• How far was speculation responsible for the Wall Street Crash?

• What impact did the crash have on the economy?

• What were the social consequences of the crash?

• Why did Roosevelt win the election of 1932?

4 How successful was the New Deal?

• What was the New Deal as introduced in 1933?

• How far did the character of the New Deal change after 1933?

• Why did the New Deal encounter opposition?

• Why did unemployment persist despite the New Deal?

• Did the fact that the New Deal did not solve unemployment mean that it was a failure?

**Specified Content**

• The expansion of the US economy during the 1920s:

– mass production in industries for cars and consumer durables

– the fortunes of older industries

– the development of credit and hire purchase

– the decline of agriculture

• Weaknesses in the economy by the late 1920s

• Society in the 1920s:

– the ‘Roaring Twenties’

– film and other media

– Prohibition and gangsterism

– restrictions on immigration, the ‘Red Scare’, religious intolerance

– discrimination against black Americans

– the Ku Klux Klan

– the changing roles of women

• The Wall Street Crash and its financial, economic and social effects

• The reaction of President Hoover to the crash

• The presidential election of 1932; Hoover’s and Roosevelt’s programmes

• Roosevelt’s inauguration and the ‘Hundred Days’

• The New Deal legislation, the ‘alphabet agencies’ and their work, and the economic and social changes they caused

• Opposition to the New Deal:

– the Republicans – the rich – business interests – the Supreme Court – radical critics like Huey Long

• The strengths and weaknesses of the New Deal programme in dealing with unemployment and the Depression.