

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1920-1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the First World War, the victors hoped to avoid Peace another war. At the Paris• Conference, they set up the League of Nations to keep the peace:
THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The League was to act as a mediator when countries quarrelled.• The League was to organise all other countries to resist an aggressor. This was called 'collective security'.• But the League was weak because from the start several important countries were not in it:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany was not a member until 1926 and Germans always disliked it because it was set up by the victors of the First World War. Hitler pulled Germany out in 1933.• The Soviet Union was not invited to join at first because it was communist. Stalin always despised the League, but joined in 1934 hoping for support if Hitler threatened the USSR.• The United States Senate refused to approve the treaty setting up the League, so the Americans never joined it.• The League also lacked an army of its own to enforce its decisions. Only Britain and France among its members had large armies, and they were not willing to use them to stop aggression unless their own interests were involved.
1919-1929; GROWING HOPE OF PEACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediately after the war, tension was high in Europe, with issues like reparations causing ill-feeling between Germany and France.• But once these were settled in the Locarno Pact (1925) and the Young Plan (1929), people began to believe that peace was possible.• The Wall Street Crash in 1929, and the Great Depression that followed, changed that.
THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some undemocratic governments tried to take their people's minds off their economic problems with foreign conquests. Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931. Italy invaded Abyssinia in 1935.• In democratic countries, voters began to support more extreme parties (either communist or nationalist/fascist) that seemed to offer solutions to the economic mess.• In Germany, the Depression led to the rise of Hitler. His aims, which he set out in Mein Kampf, were to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Destroy the Versailles Treaty
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unite all Germans into a new Reich, i.e. take over countries in which there were Germans - Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland• Conquer living space (Lebensraum) for Germans in Eastern Europe, i.e. Russia.• These aims could only be achieved by war.
HOW DID OTHER COUNTRIES REACT TO HITLER'S RISE?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The French were horrified when Hitler came to power. They strengthened the Maginot Line but felt too weak to take him on unless they were sure that their British ally would support them.• At first the British were not too concerned about Hitler:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They did not really believe what he wrote in <i>Mein Kampf</i> and thought it was better to have a fascist dictator than a communist in Germany.• They also believed that the Versailles Treaty had been unfair to Germany and were willing to let him dismantle it.• Finally, and they were growing more worried about Japan's threat to their Asian empire and did not want a conflict in Europe at the same time.• For all these reasons and because of a genuine horror at the idea of another war, British leaders were willing to give Hitler some of what he wanted in the hope that it would satisfy him. This led to the policy known as appeasement.• Mussolini's attitude to Hitler was ambiguous:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was flattered because Hitler claimed to admire him as the first fascist ruler.• But he also feared that Hitler might try to take the South Tyrol, which Italy got from Austria after the First World War. For that reason, he was willing at first to stand up to Hitler.• Later he changed sides because he saw that France and Britain were more likely to block his plans for a Mediterranean empire than Hitler.• Stalin indirectly helped Hitler to power in 1932:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When he realised what he had done, he told communist parties in other countries to co-operate with democrats to keep fascists out.• He also sought alliances with western governments, and in 1934 joined the League of Nations to get the protection of 'collective security'.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE ROME-BERLIN AXIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This suited Hitler as it divided his enemies. He recognised Italian conquests in Abyssinia, and in October 1936 made the Rome-Berlin Axis with Mussolini.In November 1936, Hitler made the Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan, which Italy joined in 1937. This threatened Russia with war from two sides.
MARCH 1938: ANSCHLUSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 1938, Hitler felt strong enough to begin expanding into other countries, but he still hoped to do so without a fight. His first target was Austria, where the Nazi Party was now very strong.Early in 1938 he summoned the Austrian Chancellor, Schuschnigg, to Berlin and demanded Nazis be included in his coalition government.When he went home, Schuschnigg organised a referendum to forestall a German invasion, but the German army moved in before it could take place.Anschluss was popular with Austrians and France and Britain did not feel there was anything they could do about it.
SEPTEMBER 1938: THE MUNICH CRISIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hitler's next target was Czechoslovakia, a small democratic country with a large German-speaking minority in the Sudetenland.Hitler funded a Sudeten Nazi Party, led by Konrad Heinlein. It stirred up discontent among the Sudeten Germans and demanded unification with Germany.The Czechs had a modern, well-equipped army and their frontier with Germany was well defended. They also had guarantees of help from France and Stalin.But when Hitler took over Austria, the German army could go into Czechoslovakia from the Austrian side.In August 1938, Hitler threatened to invade Czechoslovakia to 'protect' the Sudeten Germans. The Czechs appealed for help to their Allies, Soviet France and the Union.There was little France could do because it was on the far side of Germany. Stalin offered to help if France would too, but they would only act with British support.Neville chamberlain, the British Prime Minister, was desperate to avoid a war and determined to appease Hitler. He flew to Munich to meet him at his summer home. At first Hitler refused to compromise and around Europe people prepared for war.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
1939: THE END OF APPEASEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• But Hitler was not satisfied. In March 1939, he sent his army into the rest of Czechoslovakia. This finally showed that appeasement had failed and that it was impossible to trust Hitler.• Hitler then began to use the same tactics against Poland, demanding the Polish Corridor and the city of Danzig.• Britain and France declared they would go to war to defend the Poles. They also reluctantly opened talks with Stalin about an alliance against Hitler.• But the talks dragged on because Stalin wanted to send his army into Poland to defend it, and the Poles feared him as much as they feared Hitler.
AUGUST 1939: THE NAZI-SOVIET PACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stalin then turned to Hitler, who seized his chance. On 23 August the two archenemies agreed to a ten-year non-aggression pact.• Publicly it only promised that neither side would attack the other for ten years.• But secret clauses allowed Stalin to invade Finland, Eastern Poland and the Baltic States (all lost to Russia during the First World War) and supply Germany with oil:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Stalin, the Pact bought time to rebuild the Red Army, seriously weakened by his purges.• For Hitler, it removed the fear of having to fight France, Britain and Russia at the same time (a 'war on two fronts'), while leaving him free to invade Russia whenever it suited him.
SEPTEMBER 1939: WORLD WAR II BEGINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 1 September Hitler invaded Poland.• On 3 September Britain and France declared war on Germany.
WAR IN EUROPE: 1939-1945 WARTIME ALLIANCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were two sets of alliances in the Second World War: the Allied powers (the Allies) and the Axis powers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At first Poland, France and Britain (with its empire), were the Allies, but after the defeat of Poland and France, Britain fought alone. In June 1941, Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union brought Stalin in on the Allied side. The Americans joined in December after Pearl Harbour.• Italy and Germany were called the Axis powers after they formed the Rome-Berlin Axis in 1936. They were later joined by Japan in the Anti-Comintern Pact, and later by Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
SEPTEMBER 1939- MARCH 1940: WAR IN EASTERN EUROPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 1 September 1939, Hitler invaded Poland, using a new military tactic called blitzkrieg ('lightning war'). The planes of the Luftwaffe bombed the Polish army and then great numbers numbers of tanks (Panzers) and soldiers poured over the border.• The Poles fought bravely but were quickly overwhelmed, especially after Stalin, as part of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, invaded eastern Poland and the Baltic states on 17 September.• The Germans and Russians divided Poland between them.• In October, Stalin also invaded Finland. Strong Finnish resistance delayed the Soviet victory until March 1940. Hitler believed this showed the Red Army was weak and could easily be beaten.
APRIL-JUNE 1940: GERMAN CONQUESTS IN WESTERN EUROPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the west, Britain and France declared war on Germany on 3 September, but their armies waited behind the Maginot Line through the winter of 1939-1940 (the 'phony war').• On 9 April 1940, Hitler launched a blitzkrieg against neutral Denmark and Norway. British and French troops tried to help Norway but had to withdraw in June.• On 10 May, the German army entered the neutral Netherlands and Belgium which were overwhelmed in days.• The French and British expected an invasion through Belgium and moved their armies north to stop it.• But Hitler sent his armies through the Ardennes, which the French thought impassable for tanks.• The Germans split the French and British armies:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most of the British and some French troops retreated to the sea at Dunkirk where the Royal Navy and many small boats rescued over 300,000 of them.• The French and some British moved south, to defend Paris, but it fell to the Germans on 14 June.• On 22 June, Pétain signed an armistice with Hitler, taking France out of the war.
WHY WERE THE GERMANS SO SUCCESSFUL?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• German success was due to (a) a bigger army and air force than Britain and France combined,• (b) more skilful tactics, especially in the use of tanks and the blitzkrieg, (c) disagreement about• tactics between the British and French armies and (d) the defeatist attitude of the French leaders.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN (JULY-SEPTEMBER 1940)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the German armies rolled across Europe in May 1940, the British parliament elected Winston Churchill as Prime Minister, in place of Chamberlain who was associated with the failed policy of appeasement.• When France fell, Hitler assumed that Britain would make peace, but Churchill was determined to continue the war.• Hitler then ordered the Luftwaffe, which had 1,300 bombers and 1,000 fighter planes, to destroy the RAF, so that he could invade Britain (Operation Sealion).• In July and August, the Germans sent wave after wave of planes against RAF airfields in southern England.• British Spitfires and Hurricanes retaliated, inflicting considerable losses on the Germans. Their main problem was a shortage of trained pilots.• In September, after the British bombed Berlin, Hitler sent the Luftwaffe to bomb London (the Blitz). He hoped to break the British people's will to resist. This was a mistake as it took the pressure off the RAF, which had been close to collapse.• The RAF continued to inflict heavy losses on the Luftwaffe. By October, it was clear they had not gained control of the air. Hitler then called off his invasion plans.
WHY DID HITLER LOSE THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Battle of Britain was Hitler's first defeat. He lost it despite having a larger air force because (a) British planes were superior to the German Messerschmitt's and Stukas, (b) German planes had further to travel, which limited what they could do, while British planes were near home, and (c) the British developed radar which gave them advance warning of Luftwaffe attacks.
THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC, 1939-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Churchill wrote: <i>'the only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril'</i>. Britain imported a large proportion of its food, raw materials and weapons across the Atlantic. If Hitler could cut off these supplies he could starve Britain into submission.• From the start of the war, German surface ships like the Graf Spee attacked British ships. The Royal Navy dealt with this threat which ended in May 1941 with the sinking of the battleship Bismarck.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC, 1939-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germans also used submarines (U-boats). They became more dangerous from the summer of 1940 because they could set out from bases in France and Norway.• They destroyed three million tons of Allied shipping between June and December 1940 alone. In 1941 they formed 'wolf packs', i.e. groups of U-boats attacking ships at night.• From 1942 the Allies turned the tide against the U-boats. Their countermeasures included (a) bigger convoys, (b) the use of sonar and radar, (c) the development of long-range aircraft and (d) the cracking of the Enigma code, which allowed them to track submarines' movements.• In the Battle of the Atlantic, the Allies lost almost about 80,000 seamen and 4,000 ships but the vital supply lines remained open.
ITALY IN THE WAR (1940-1945)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In spite of Mussolini's alliance with Hitler, he stayed neutral until he was sure the Germans were going to win.• On 5 June 1940, he declared war on France and acquired some French territory after the armistice.• In October, he invaded Greece, but was defeated. Hitler had to come to his aid, occupying most of the Balkans.• In North Africa, Italy had an army in Libya. It attacked Egypt, intending to capture the British-controlled Suez Canal.• After the British defeated the Italians, Hitler sent his best general, Rommel, with troops and tanks, to support them.• Rommel succeeded at first, but General Montgomery defeated him at the battle of El Alamein in October 1942.• After the US entered the war, American, British and French armies occupied Morocco and Algeria, which had belonged to Vichy France.• This trapped the Axis forces and they surrendered in May 1943.• The Allies then invaded Sicily. In Rome, the king dismissed Mussolini and the new government made peace.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
ITALY IN THE WAR (1940-1945)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• But Hitler rescued Mussolini and set up a puppet to continue the war. Fighting Italian state in northern Italy lasted until the collapse of Germany.• In April 1945, Mussolini was captured by partisans (anti-fascist fighters) and killed.
THE SOVIET UNION AT WAR (1941-1945)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although Hitler made a ten-year non-aggression pact with Stalin, he always intended to invade the Soviet Union.• He wanted to destroy communism, gain Lebensraum for Germans and get control of Russia's oil and raw materials.• The German invasion plan was called Operation Barbarossa. It was delayed from May to June• On 22 June 1941, Hitler sent 2,000 planes, 3,500 tanks and 3.5 million men into the Soviet Union:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To the north, their target was Leningrad.• To the centre, it was Moscow.• To the south, they wanted to capture the oil-fields of the Caucasus.• The Germans advanced rapidly. General Zhukov, the Red Army commander, told his men to retreat before them. They were also to destroy air-fields, railways, animals, crops and factories anything that might be used by the Germans. This would force them to bring food, fuel and whatever else they needed all the way from Germany.• The Russians also moved thousands of factories and a million factory workers beyond the Ural Mountains, out of reach of the German bombers. Tanks from these factories helped the Soviet Union win the war.• Zhukov's main hope lay in the fierce Russian winter, In 1941, it came early. The Germans, expecting a quick victory, were not prepared for it, Soldiers in light clothing died in their thousands, fuel froze and Russian resistance fighters stopped flesh supplies teaching them.
THE SIEGE OF LENINGRAD (SEPTEMBER 1941-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 8 September 1941, the German army surrounded Leningrad, Russia's second city, but the people refused to surrender.• For 900 days they endured constant bombing and shelling as well as hunger, cold and thirst.• One third of the people lost their lives, but on 27 January 1944, the Germans finally acknowledged defeat.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN: THE WARTIME ALLIANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the First World War, the United States went back to its traditional policy of isolation (i.e. keeping out of European quarrels).• Isolationism was popular, but some Americans, including President Roosevelt, grew concerned about the growth of undemocratic fascist regimes in Europe.• When the war began, America remained neutral, but Roosevelt supported the Lend-Lease Program which allowed Britain to get large quantities of armaments from the US.• On 7 December 1941, Japanese planes attacked the US Pacific fleet in Pearl Harbour. Hitler then declared war on the US.• This allowed Roosevelt to decide that defeating Hitler was his main priority. American troops arrived in Europe and the US sent supplies to Britain and the Soviet Union.
THE WAR IN THE AIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the RAF won the Battle of Britain they attacked targets in Germany. The US air force joined in from 1942.• The RAF commander, Sir Arthur ('Bomber') Harris first attacked military or industrial targets.• Then he switched to bombing cities, which were reduced to ruins. Hundreds of thousands of Germans were killed.
D-DAY AND THE NORMANDY LANDINGS: JUNE 1944	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stalin wanted his allies to invade France in 1943 to take German troops away from the Russian front but Churchill and Roosevelt preferred to attack Italy first Plans to invade France (Operation Overlord) were finally drawn up for June 1944.• On D-Day. 6 June, 400,000 troops and 60,000 vehicles, under the command of the American general Dwight Eisenhower, landed in Normandy.• The Germans, deceived into expecting them to land near Calais, were caught unprepared. The Allied troops swept across northern France and, in August, liberated Paris.
THE END OF THE WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Allied advance was slowed in December 1944 by a last desperate counter-attack by the Germans (Battle of the Bulge).• In January 1945, the Russians entered Germany. Hitler sent most of his remaining troops against them, letting the western Allies cross the Rhine into Germany.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE END OF THE WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By April, British, Americans and French troops had reached the Elbe and the Russians entered Berlin.• On 30 April, Hitler committed suicide in his bunker, and on 5 May the Germans surrendered.
THE MEETINGS OF THE ALLIED LEADERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Throughout the war Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met to discuss military progress and make plans.• In November 1943 they met at Teheran:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stalin wanted the US and Britain to invade France and they agreed on May 1944.• They agreed to divide Europe between Russian and western armies. Because Russia was still weak, the western leaders did not realise how much power this would give Stalin after the war.• They failed to agree on how to treat Germany after the war.• In February 1945, they met in Yalta. By then the war was almost won and Stalin's army controlled much of Eastern Europe. Roosevelt was ill (he died in April) and he needed Stalin's help against Japan:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They agreed Germany would be divided into zones occupied by the Allied armies, but failed to agree on its future treatment.• They could not agree on which kind of government - communist or capitalist - Eastern Europe countries would have after the war.• The last conference was held in Potsdam, near Berlin, in July 1945. By then Germany was defeated and Harry Truman was President of the US. During the Conference, Churchill lost the British election and was replaced by Clement Attlee:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The differences between Stalin and his wartime allies, hidden while they fought Hitler, emerged, especially over the future of Eastern Europe.• They agreed to try Nazi leaders for war crimes.• During the conference, Truman heard about the successful explosion of the first atom bomb.
WHY DID THE ALLIES WIN THE WAR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hitler planned for a short war. When he failed to beat Britain and then Russia quickly, Germany lacked the manpower, oil, minerals and other resources to fight a long war against overwhelming odds.• The entry of the United States, with its large population, big and efficient industries and huge supplies of raw materials made a German Victory impossible.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
COLLABORATION WITH THE GERMANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A few joined the Milice, set up in 1943 as a French equivalent to the Gestapo. It rounded up Jews, fought the resistance and was notorious for its brutality.
RESISTANCE: GENERAL DE GAULLE AND THE FREE FRENCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not everyone in France was content to collaborate with the Germans. In 1940, General Charles de Gaulle escaped to London just ahead of the German armies.• On 18 June, he broadcast from the BBC, calling on all French people to resist the Germans.• He set up the 'Free French' movement but got little support from either Churchill or Roosevelt, who distrusted him.
THE RESISTANCE IN FRANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In France, resistance to the Germans developed slowly. It increased after Hitler invaded Russia• When the Germans began to conscript French workers to Germany, many young men chose to join the resistance instead.• At first, the resistance consisted of many groups, mostly operating independently. Later some of them formed an underground army, the Maquis.• They spied on the Germans ending reports of their movements to London.• They rescued Allied airmen and helped them to get home• Occasionally they sabotaged German installations but that was very risky. The Germans and the Milice retaliated very savagely, often killing many innocent civilians.• It is doubtful if the resistance made much difference to the war but they restored French self-respect.
DE GAULLE GAINS CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• De Gaulle wanted to unite the various resistance groups under his leadership• He sent Jean Moulin to France to talk to them. Moulin succeeded, though he was later captured, tortured and killed by the Germans.• The Allies did not tell de Gaulle about the D-Day landings in France in June 1944, but the resistance helped them by attacking the Germans.• When Paris was liberated, the Allies feared the communists might claim credit for the resistance, so they arranged for de Gaulle to lead the victory march into the city.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
DE GAULLE GAINS CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Around France people turned on those who collaborated with the Germans.• About 9,000 were killed, many of them innocent.• De Gaulle insisted on proper trials for 100,000 'traitors'. Pétain and Laval were sentenced to death, but Pétain's sentence was reduced to life in prison because of his great age (89 at the time). Altogether about 750 people were executed.
BRITAIN: THE 'HOME FRONT', 1939-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early in the war, thousands of refugees from the Nazis escaped to Britain• Political leaders like de Gaulle set up 'governments in exile' to inspire resistance to Nazi rule. Others joined the British armed forces.• British men under 40 were conscripted unless they belonged to a reserved occupation vital to the survival of the country.• Those who were not fighting joined the Home Guard ('Dad's Army') to defend the country if the Germans invaded. Others served as air-raid wardens or auxiliary firemen during the Blitz.• Single women were also conscripted:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some joined the women's branches of the armed forces such as the WAAF (air force) or WRNS (navy). They did not fight but worked as clerks, mechanics, etc.• Others worked in the Women's Voluntary Services (WVS), organising evacuations, supervising shelters, etc.• Women, married as well as single, worked in arms factories, on building sites or on the land, replacing the men who were in the forces.
RATIONING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food, clothing and petrol were strictly rationed. Foreign fruit like oranges and bananas disappeared, but the government made sure there were always supplies of tea and cigarettes.• People got ration books with 'points' that entitled them to a certain minimum of food. The amount they got was carefully estimated to ensure a healthy diet.• Slogans like '<i>Dig for Victory</i>' encouraged people to grow food in their back gardens or on their allotments to supplement their rations.• Those who had money could buy unrationed food or clothes on the illegal 'black market'.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
EVACUATING THE CHILDREN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the 1930s, the British thought that millions would die when their cities were bombed, so it was decided to evacuate all children.• When war began in 1939, three million people, mostly school children and their escorts, were sent into the country.• Bewildered children went to live with strangers. Many were lucky in their hosts, being treated like members of the family. Some were exploited as cheap labour or abused.• When there was no bombing during the 'phoney war', many returned to their parents and remained throughout the Blitz.
CITIES DURING THE BLITZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Blitz continued from July 1940 to May 1941. London, Manchester, Liverpool, Coventry, Glasgow, Belfast and many other towns were bombed.• At first the bombers came in daylight but after the RAF inflicted heavy casualties, bombing was at night, usually when there was a full moon.• Cities were defended by hundreds of barrage balloons and anti-aircraft guns, as well as by RAF fighter planes.• Air-raid wardens enforced a strict blackout in case any light might guide enemy aircraft to a target.• Air-raid shelters were built, some in people's gardens, others in streets for the whole community. In London many people took refuge in Underground (urban rail) stations.• Some people left the cities each evening to sleep in the surrounding countryside where they felt safer.• In the Blitz about 50,000 people were killed and many more injured. Cities were badly damaged with over one million people made homeless.• During 1944 and 1945, the German rockets, the V1s and V2s ('doodlebugs'), caused panic because they were so unexpected and unpredictable. Over one million people left London and about 10,000 were killed.
PROPAGANDA AND ENTERTAINMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The British government used censorship and propaganda to manage news about the war. The number of people killed in the Blitz was covered up, the number of British planes lost was understated, while German losses were exaggerated.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE TECHNOLOGY OF WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before and during the war, each side had scientists and engineers working to improve existing technologies or develop new ones which would give them an advantage over the enemy.
IMPROVING EXISTING TECHNOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tanks, which were invented during the First World War, were much faster and easier to manoeuvre by 1939. German Panzer tanks were central to Hitler's early successes. As the war went on, bigger tanks with stronger armour like the Soviet T-34, the American Sherman and the German Panther were developed.• Planes were only used for reconnaissance during the First World War, but all countries believed control of the air would be vital in the next war. Through the 1920s and 1930s work went on to develop new aircraft, like the Luftwaffe's Messerschmitt and the RAF's Hurricanes. During the war, bombers like the American Flying Fortress got bigger and could fly further. Fighter planes like the Mustang and the Hawker Tempest became faster, more agile and could stay in the air much longer.• Radar was vital to Britain's survival in the Battle of Britain. Discovered in the 1930s, the British secretly improved it while the Germans failed to realise its value.• Sonar, developed in the First World War, was improved by the Royal Navy, enabling it to detect German U-boats.• The British used a special interception device, known as Ultra, to break the German's Enigma code. This gave them advance warning of German attacks.
NEW WEAPONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main new weapons developed during the war were the V1 flying bombs and V2 rockets and the atomic bomb. They came too late to make much difference to the outcome of the war.
THE V1 AND V2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hitler hoped the V1 (a pilotless aircraft carrying a large bomb) and the V2 (a rocket, the ancestor of modern ballistic missiles) might save him from defeat. The Nazis poured enormous resources into their development.• About 10,000 V1s were launched at the southeast of England between June 1944 and March 1945. Early attempts to stop them using planes had only limited success, but the development of electronically guided anti-aircraft guns reduced their impact from August.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
THE V1 AND V2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting in September 1944, over 3,000 V2s were launched. Because they travelled at super-sonic speed they came silently, dropping death and destruction unheralded from the sky. They had killed about 7,000 civilians by March 1945. Too fast for anti-aircraft guns or aircraft, the only way to deal with them was to bomb the launch sites.
THE ATOM BOMB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• British scientists were working on nuclear fission from the 1920s, but after the US entered the war, The US feared the Germans would be the first to develop the atomic bomb, so it began an intensive research programme codenamed the Manhattan Project, led by J. Roberts• Oppenheimer, a Jewish nuclear physicist.• The first working atomic bomb was tested in the New Mexico desert during the Trinity Test on the 16th July 1945. President Truman decided to use it against Japan, which was still at war.• Less than a month after testing, the US Air Force dropped two atomic bombs on Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 129,000 civilians. The Japanese surrendered on the 15th August 1945 and the Second World War came to an end.
HOW THE WAR CHANGED EUROPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The war killed between 40 and 50 million Europeans, most of them civilians.• When it ended towns and cities were in ruins, roads and railways were destroyed and about 20 million people were homeless refugees.• Fascists and Nazis were discredited but communists gained respect because of their role in resisting Hitler.• France, Britain and Germany - the great powers of the past - were damaged by the war. In some respects, only two countries mattered in global politics afterwards - the United States and the Soviet Union. They became known as the superpowers.• The line where their armies met in 1945 became a line – the iron curtain – that divided Europe until 1990.• Rivalry between the Superpowers and their ideas – capitalism and communism – led to a new conflict; the Cold War.• In Western Europe, leaders looked for a way of avoiding another war between France and Germany. This led eventually to the foundation of the European Union.
Keywords	Summary

International Relations 1919-1945

Headings	Notes
EXAM QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent did Hitler's foreign policy, 1933-1939, contribute to the outbreak of World War II? (HL 2021)• From your study of World War II, what did you learn about two of the following: wartime alliances; the Home Front; Vichy France? (HL 2020)• How did developments in technology affect warfare during World War II? (HL 2019)• How effective a leader was Winston Churchill or Josef Stalin during World War II? (HL 2018)• To what extent did Hitler's foreign policy, 1933-1939, contribute to the outbreak of World War II? (HL 2015)• What was the impact of World War II on its [Britain's] civilian population? (HL 2015)• To what extent was Hitler's foreign policy, 1933-1939, responsible for the outbreak of World War II? (HL 2012)• What did you learn about World War II from your study of one or more of the following: wartime alliances; collaboration/resistance; technology of warfare? (HL 20)• What was the impact of World War II on the civilian population of Britain and/or France? (HL 2008)• How significant was the role played by the Soviet Union in World War II? (HL 2007)• What developments took place in the technology of warfare during the period, 1920 - 1945? (HL 2006)

International Relations 1920-1933

Formation of the League of Nations (1920)

1. Aimed to maintain peace through collective security and diplomatic conflict resolution.
2. The United States, despite President Wilson's advocacy for the League, never joined, weakening its global influence.
3. Germany and the Soviet Union were initially excluded but joined later, highlighting the League's selective membership.
4. Faced criticism for its inability to prevent aggression by major powers in the 1930s.

Treaty of Versailles (1919)

1. Ended World War I, imposing significant reparations and territorial losses on Germany.
2. Established the League of Nations as part of its framework to promote peace.
3. Sowed resentment in Germany, contributing to economic hardship and political instability.
4. The harsh terms are often cited as factors leading to World War II.

Washington Naval Conference (1921-1922)

1. Addressed concerns of an arms race by setting naval limits for major powers.
2. Led to the signing of several treaties aimed at naval disarmament and maintaining peace in the Pacific.
3. The agreements reflected a shift towards diplomacy and away from unilateral military expansion.
4. However, the lack of enforcement mechanisms weakened their long-term effectiveness.

Locarno Treaties (1925)

1. Germany, France, and Belgium agreed to respect mutual borders, promoting a sense of security in Western Europe.
2. Encouraged Germany's integration into the international community post-World War I.
3. Hailed as a new era of peace, though it failed to address Eastern European security concerns.
4. The treaties were undermined by the rise of Nazi Germany and its territorial ambitions.

Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)

1. Renounced war as a tool of national policy, signed by 62 countries.
2. Represented idealism in international relations, aiming for peaceful conflict resolution.
3. Lacked enforcement mechanisms, making it symbolic rather than effective.
4. Highlighted the era's desire for peace but also its naivety in the face of future conflicts.

Impact of the Great Depression (1929)

1. Triggered worldwide economic downturn, exacerbating political and social tensions.
2. Led to high unemployment, poverty, and widespread discontent.
3. Facilitated the rise of totalitarian regimes in Germany, Italy, and other countries.
4. Undermined faith in democratic governments and international economic cooperation.

Japanese Invasion of Manchuria (1931)

1. Marked the beginning of Japanese imperial expansion in Asia.
2. Challenged the League of Nations' ability to enforce peace and territorial sovereignty.
3. Demonstrated the limitations of international agreements without the power to enforce them.
4. Escalated tensions in the Pacific, contributing to the path towards World War II.

Disarmament Conference (1932-1934)

1. Aimed to reduce global armaments in the interest of maintaining peace.
2. Saw initial enthusiasm but was ultimately derailed by mutual distrust and lack of commitment.
3. Germany's withdrawal and subsequent rearmament signalled a return to militaristic policies.
4. Highlighted the international community's inability to agree on significant disarmament measures during a critical pre-war period.

Hitler's Foreign Policy

Aims and Objectives

1. An end to the Treaty of Versailles
2. The creation of a greater Germany which would unite all German-speaking peoples in Europe
3. The movement of Germany's borders to the east to create 'living space' (lebensraum)

Germany leaves the League of Nations

1. League of Nations disarmament conference 1933
2. Hitler proposes that every country disarm to the level set for Germany in the Treaty of Versailles
3. France reject proposal and Britain offers a compromise which Hitler rejects
4. Germany withdraws from the League of Nations claiming it is the only country that wants to disarm.

Advances and Setbacks in 1934

1. Hitler signs a ten-year non-aggression pact with Poland
2. Austrian prime minister Dollfuss is murdered by Nazi sympathisers.
3. Mussolini fears a Nazi *coup d'etat* in Austria and sends 40,000 to the Austrian border to prevent a takeover.
4. Hitler orders the Austrian Nazis to abandon plans for a *coup d'etat*
5. Hitler's image as a 'man of peace' is damaged.

Germany Begins to Rearm 1935

1. Hitler declares his intention of rearming Germany in contravention of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles
2. Army conscription is introduced
3. Plans to increase German army from 100,000 to 550,000
4. Britain, France and Italy establish the 'Stresa Front' and condemn Hitler's plans
5. The Stresa Front collapses when Mussolini invades Abyssinia.

Anglo-German Naval Agreement 1935

1. Britain decides to look after its own interests
2. Agreement with Germany to limit the size of the German Navy to 35% the size of the British navy
3. U-Boats (submarines) excluded from the agreement
4. Germany builds large numbers of U-Boats
5. Hitler interprets agreement as a sign of weakness in Britain's determination to prevent German expansion

The Saar Plebiscite 1935

1. Under the Treaty of Versailles the Saar coal-mining region of Germany was to remain under the control of League of Nations
2. A plebiscite (vote / referendum) was held in 1935 to decide the regions future
3. Massive majority voted to return to Germany
4. Seen as approval for Hitler's policies

The Rhineland 1936

1. Under the Treaty of Versailles the Rhineland was a 'demilitarised zone'
2. Hitler used the distraction of the Italian invasion of Abyssinia and the new Franco-Russian Pact as an excuse to occupy the Rhineland with 25,000 troops
3. Hitler ordered his troops to withdraw if Britain or France showed any resistance. They didn't.
4. Beginning of a more aggressive foreign policy

Appeasement 1936-1939

1. Britain and France were unprepared for War
2. British public opinion believed that the terms of the Treaty of Versailles were too harsh on Germany
3. Britain and France saw Nazi Germany as a safeguard against the spread of communism.
4. From 1937 Hitler allowed to revise the terms of the Treaty of Versailles

Anschluss 1938

1. Nazis plotted to overthrow Austrian government
2. Austrian Prime Minister wanted Hitler to guarantee Austrian independence
3. Hitler demanded that Austrian Nazis be included in government
4. Hitler masses troops on Austrian border
5. Government resigns and Germans invited into Austria

The Munich Agreement 1938

1. In September Chamberlain intervenes to try and negotiate a compromise on the Sudetenland
2. Hitler demands that the Sudetenland is returned to Germany
3. Britain and France prepare for war
4. At Munich Britain, France, Italy and Germany agree that the Sudetenland is returned to Germany
5. Abandoned by its allies Czechoslovakia is forced to accept the agreement
6. Chamberlain declares that the Munich Agreement means 'peace in our time'

Czechoslovakia 1938

1. Hitler demands the Sudetenland and masses troops on the border in April
2. Czech mobilise a large army to face down the Germans
3. Hitler orders German troops away from the border and tries to put a brave face on the climb down
4. Privately he is intent on smashing the Czech army

Nazi-Soviet Pact August 1939

1. In preparation for war the Nazis sign a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union

World War II – Part One

The Invasion of Poland 1939

1. Blitzkrieg tactics: surprise, speed, and coordination between the Luftwaffe and Panzer units.
2. Swift defeat of the Polish Air Force and ground resistance.
3. The secret clauses of the Nazi-Soviet Pact and the division of Poland.
4. Cost to Germany: 10,000 killed, 20,000 wounded.
5. Immediate consequences: Britain and France surprised, initiation of war, but little immediate action to aid Poland.
6. Strategic significance: Blitzkrieg's success establishes Germany's rapid warfare model.
7. Impact on Polish society: massive displacement and the beginning of severe occupation policies.

The Phoney War

1. Period of inactivity and anticipation in Western Europe following Poland's invasion.
2. Allied forces mobilise along the Maginot Line, expecting a German attack.
3. German strategy: delay western offensive to secure eastern gains.
4. Psychological impact: uncertainty and fear among civilian populations.
5. Military developments: fortification and planning for future operations.
6. Economic effects: initial strain on Allied economies preparing for prolonged conflict.
7. Intelligence efforts: increased espionage and counterintelligence activities.

The Winter War - The Russo-Finnish War

1. Soviet invasion of Finland in November 1939.
2. Finnish resistance stronger than expected; significant Soviet losses.
3. Ends in March 1940 with the Moscow Peace Treaty.
4. Shifts geopolitical landscape, impacting later alliances.

The Invasion of Denmark and Norway

1. Operation Weserübung: simultaneous invasion in April 1940.
2. Strategic importance for iron ore and Atlantic access.
3. Quick German victories; limited Allied response.
4. Norway's resistance and eventual occupation.

The Battle of France

1. German bypass of the Maginot Line through Ardennes.
2. Use of Blitzkrieg tactics leading to rapid French collapse.
3. British Expeditionary Force's evacuation from Dunkirk.
4. France signs armistice, Vichy government established.

The Battle of Britain

1. First major military campaign fought entirely by air forces.
2. Key strategy: RAF defends against Luftwaffe to prevent Operation Sea Lion.
3. Importance of radar technology and the Enigma machine in intercepting German plans.
4. Civilian impact: massive bombings in the Blitz target London and other cities.
5. German objectives: destroy RAF, gain air superiority, and demoralise British resistance.
6. British resilience: utilisation of strategic fighter command and effective air raid shelters.
7. Outcome: Hitler postpones invasion plans, marking the first major defeat for Nazi Germany.
8. Legacy: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The Blitz

1. German bombing campaign against the UK, 1940-1941.
2. Targeted major cities, causing widespread destruction and civilian casualties.
3. British morale and the "Keep Calm and Carry On" attitude.
4. Importance of air raid shelters and the blackout in civilian defence.
5. Role of the Royal Air Force in defending British skies.
6. Evolution of civil defence measures and emergency services.
7. Long-term effects on British urban landscapes and housing.
8. Strengthened resolve of the British population against German aggression.

Operation Barbarossa

1. Largest military operation in human history, launching a surprise invasion of the Soviet Union.
2. Initial successes: rapid advancements, massive Soviet losses, and territorial gains.
3. Harsh winter conditions: significant German losses, highlighting preparation failures.
4. Siege of Leningrad: prolonged blockade causes immense civilian suffering and resistance.
5. Role of Scorched Earth policy: Soviet strategy to deny resources to advancing German forces.
6. Turning point: failure to capture Moscow and the Soviet counter-offensive.
7. Long-term consequences: opens Eastern Front, draining German resources.
8. Hitler's underestimation of Soviet industrial capacity and resilience.

World War II – Part Two

The Siege of Leningrad

1. German and Finnish forces isolate the city.
2. Severe famine and civilian suffering.
3. Soviet use of the 'Road of Life' across Lake Ladoga.
4. Siege lasts from September 1941 to January 1944.

America Joins the War - Pearl Harbor

1. Surprise Japanese attack on December 7, 1941.
2. Immediate cause for US entry into WWII.
3. Significant loss of naval vessels and aircraft.
4. Rallying point: "Remember Pearl Harbor" becomes a unifying slogan.
5. Shift in US foreign policy from isolationism to active involvement.
6. Acceleration of US military production and mobilisation.
7. Strategic implications for the Pacific and European theatres.
8. Impact on Japanese-American relations and internment policies.

The Battle of Stalingrad

1. German aimed to capture Stalingrad for its industrial value and to cut off the Volga River lasting from August 1942 to February 1943.
2. Heroic and determined Soviet resistance despite being initially outmatched.
3. Soviet encirclement ('Operation Uranus') traps German Sixth Army.
4. German surrender in February 1943, marking the first major defeat of the Wehrmacht in the war.
5. Devastating losses on both sides, with significant impacts on German military capacity.
6. Boosted Soviet morale and marked the beginning of the Soviet advance westward.
7. Considered by many as the turning point of World War II in Europe.

War in Africa and the Mediterranean

1. Strategic importance: control of Mediterranean Sea lanes and North African oil fields.
2. Italian setbacks and German support: Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps intervenes.
3. Key battles: El Alamein and Operation Torch signal the beginning of Axis retreat.
4. Allied strategy: encircle Axis forces, cutting off supply lines.
5. Impact on local populations: disruption, resource allocation, and colonial tensions.
6. Naval engagements: control of Mediterranean impacts supply routes and naval dominance.
7. Path to Italy: North African victory paves way for Sicilian and Italian campaigns.
8. Italian armistice and aftermath: Italy switches sides, complicating Axis defence.

The Pacific Theatre

1. Japanese expansion: early victories and territorial gains in Asia and the Pacific.
2. Pearl Harbor: surprise attack leads to U.S. entering the war.
3. Island-hopping strategy: U.S. bypasses heavily fortified positions, capturing strategic islands.
4. Battle of Midway: turning point, U.S. naval victory establishes naval superiority.
5. Guadalcanal: first major land defeat for Japan, highlighting jungle warfare's brutality.
6. Kamikaze tactics: desperation in Japanese defence, targeting Allied ships with suicide attacks.
7. Atomic bombings: Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to Japanese surrender and ethical debates.
8. Post-war Japan: occupation, disarmament, and the path to reconstruction.

D-Day Landings

1. Allied invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.
2. Largest seaborne invasion in history, Operation Overlord.
3. Critical role of deception strategies, such as Operation Fortitude.
4. Establishment of a Western Front and the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany.
5. Heroic actions on beaches codenamed Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword.
6. Heavy casualties but eventual breakthrough and liberation of French towns.
7. Importance of airborne operations in securing flanks.
8. Momentum towards Allied victory in Europe.

World War II – Part Three

The Battle of the Bulge

1. Last major German offensive campaign on the Western Front, December 1944.
2. Attempt to split Allied forces and capture Antwerp.
3. Surprise attack leads to initial American setbacks.
4. Harsh winter conditions and terrain challenges.
5. Heroic defence of Bastogne by the 101st Airborne Division.
6. Turnaround with Patton's Third Army relieving Bastogne.
7. High casualties but eventual German retreat.
8. Depletion of German resources and acceleration of Allied advance into Germany.

End of the War

1. Unconditional surrender of German forces in May 1945.
2. V-E Day celebrations and relief among Allied nations.
3. The Potsdam Conference and the division of Germany.
4. Surrender of Japan following atomic bombings, September 1945.
5. V-J Day marks the end of WWII.
6. Trials and punishment of war criminals at Nuremberg and elsewhere.
7. Establishment of the United Nations to prevent future conflicts.
8. Long-lasting effects on global politics, economy, and society.

Wartime Alliances

1. The Allies: the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, China, and others.
2. The Axis: Germany, Italy, Japan, and their allies.
3. Strategic and sometimes uneasy alliances, particularly between the US and the Soviet Union.
4. Importance of conferences (Yalta, Tehran, Potsdam) in coordinating military strategy and post-war plans.
5. Shifts in alliances as the war progresses, including Italy's change of sides in 1943.
6. Impact on post-war geopolitics and the onset of the Cold War.
7. Role of resistance movements and their coordination with Allied forces.
8. Contributions of colonial troops and the impact on decolonisation efforts post-war.

Britain and the Home Front

1. Total war effort with conscription, rationing, and women joining the workforce.
2. National unity and resilience in the face of German bombing campaigns during the Blitz.
3. Shift towards war production, with significant contributions from across the Commonwealth.
4. Establishment of the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) and widespread use of bomb shelters.
5. Extensive food and fuel rationing to ensure supplies for the military and essential services.
6. Expanded significantly, including service in armed forces (e.g., ATS, WAAF, WRNS).
7. Government campaigns to maintain morale and encourage war support.
8. Social changes leading to welfare state developments and greater gender equality in work.

The Holocaust

1. Systematic extermination: genocide of six million Jews and millions of others.
2. Concentration and death camps: Auschwitz, Treblinka, and others symbolise atrocities.
3. International response: Allied discoveries of camps lead to global shock and condemnation.
4. Nuremberg Trials: prosecution of Nazi war crimes, establishing principles of international law.
5. Holocaust denial and memory: ongoing efforts to educate and combat denial.
6. Reparations and memorials: compensating survivors and honouring the victims.
7. Impact on Jewish identity and the establishment of Israel.
8. Ethical implications: medical experiments and the use of data in post-war research.

Post-War Order and Cold War

1. United Nations: founded to prevent future conflicts and promote international cooperation.
2. Division of Europe: Iron Curtain and the start of the Cold War.
3. Marshall Plan: U.S. economic aid for European reconstruction, aiming to prevent communism.
4. NATO and Warsaw Pact: military alliances that solidify the Cold War divisions.
5. Decolonisation: accelerated end of European empires, leading to new nations and conflicts.
6. Nuclear arms race: U.S. and Soviet Union develop and stockpile nuclear weapons.
7. Science and technology: war-driven innovations impact civilian life, from medicine to computers.
8. Cultural impact: literature, film, and art reflect on the war's legacy and human experiences.

World War II – Part Four

Germany and the Home Front

1. Intense focus on military production, including use of forced labour from occupied territories.
2. Increasingly severe as Allied bombing campaigns targeted industrial centres and cities.
3. Efforts to maintain morale and support for the war through propaganda, even as the tide turned against Germany.
4. Contrary to Nazi ideology, women were required to fill roles left by conscripted men.
5. Widespread shortages leading to rationing of food, clothing, and other essentials.
6. Use of prisoners of war and Holocaust victims in war production under brutal conditions.
7. Volkssturm militia formed late in the war as a last-ditch effort to defend German territory.
8. Rapid decline in civilian morale and infrastructure, culminating in unconditional surrender.

Vichy France

1. Following France's defeat in 1940, the Vichy regime collaborated with Nazi Germany.
2. Led by Marshal Philippe Pétain, instituting conservative, authoritarian policies.
3. Active cooperation with Nazi demands, including deportation of Jews to concentration camps.
4. Internal divisions between the Vichy regime and the French Resistance.
5. Resources and labour requisitioned to support the German war effort.
6. Promoted traditional values; measures against Freemasons, Jews, and political dissidents.
7. The Vichy regime was viewed as traitorous; leaders were tried and punished after the war.
8. Debates continue over the extent of collaboration and resistance within France during this period.

Technological Developments

1. Advances in military technology, including radar, jet engines, and rocketry.
 2. Improvement of encryption and decryption, exemplified by the Enigma machine and Ultra intelligence.
 3. Development of the first computers, such as the Colossus, to aid in codebreaking.
 4. Impact of logistics and supply chain innovations on the war effort.
- Introduction of new weapons, such as the V-1 and V-2 rockets.
Evolution of tank warfare and the importance of mechanised infantry.
7. Advances in medicine, including penicillin and mobile field hospitals.
 8. The role of scientific research in warfare, leading to the Manhattan Project.

The Atomic Bomb

1. Development under the top-secret Manhattan Project.
2. Use on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.
3. Immediate devastation and long-term environmental and health effects.
4. Ethical debates surrounding its use and the decision-making process.
5. Role in Japan's decision to surrender and the end of WWII.
6. Start of the nuclear age and arms race during the Cold War.
7. Impact on international diplomacy and non-proliferation efforts.
8. Memorialisation and the global movement towards disarmament.