



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2012

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## History

Unit 2: The Cold War 1945–1991

Higher Tier

[GHY22]

TUESDAY 12 JUNE, AFTERNOON

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GHY22

### TIME

1 hour 15 minutes.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.  
Answer **two** questions: **all** questions in Section A and **one** question from the choice in Section B.

### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 50.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **Section B**.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

A Resource Booklet referring to Question 1 accompanies this paper.

For question 1 refer to the source material in the Resource Booklet.

## Section A

1 This section is about the Vietnam War: Challenges to the USA.

(a) Study **Source A**.

What does **Source A** tell us about the views of this soldier on the North Vietnamese and Vietcong? [4]

(b) Study **Sources A** and **B**.

How far does **Source B** support **Source A** about the reasons for the defeat of the USA in the Vietnam War? [6]

(c) Study **Source C**.

How useful and reliable is **Source C** to an historian studying the attitudes of the people of Vietnam to the war? [8]

(d) Using **Sources A, B** and **C** and **your own knowledge**, explain why there are different interpretations of the reasons for the defeat of the USA in the Vietnam War. [10]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

### 2 This question is about the Cold War in Europe, 1945–1949.

Explain why the USSR wanted control over Eastern Europe after World War Two and how the USA responded to the actions of the USSR between 1945 and 1949.

Use the following guidelines to help you with your answer and any other relevant information.

- Reasons why the USSR wanted control over Eastern Europe
- Creation of the “Iron Curtain”
- Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid
- Berlin: Blockade and Airlift.

[22]

### 3 This question is about the Korean War, 1950–1953.

Explain why the USA, China and the USSR became involved in the Korean War and the role which each played in the Korean War, 1950–1953.

Use the following guidelines to help you with your answer and any other relevant information.

- Reasons for the USA’s involvement in Korea
- Reasons for the involvement of the USSR and China in Korea
- Actions of the USA in the Korean War
- Actions of the USSR and China in the Korean War.

[22]

### 4 This question is about the USSR’s relations with Eastern Europe, 1956–1968.

Explain how and why the USSR kept control over Eastern Europe between 1956 and 1968.

Use the following guidelines to help you with your answer and any other relevant information.

- Events in Hungary, 1956
- Berlin, 1958–1961
- Czechoslovakia, 1968
- The Brezhnev Doctrine.

[22]

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*Rewarding Learning*

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2012**

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## **History**

Unit 2: The Cold War 1945–1991

Foundation and Higher Tiers

**[GHY21] [GHY22]**

**TUESDAY 12 JUNE, AFTERNOON**

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**RESOURCE  
BOOKLET**

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## The Vietnam War: Challenges to the USA

### Source A: A US soldier who fought in Vietnam, speaking after the war, gives his views on the reasons for the defeat of the USA

I think the North Vietnamese and Vietcong were too clever for us. We lost the war because of their determination. We were the stronger military power. We had better training, better equipment and better weapons but they just would not give up. The Vietcong thought at first that the Tet Offensive of 1968 was a disaster, but when they saw the reaction to it in the United States, they changed their minds. People at home in the USA began to say that we couldn't win the war. The President decided not to run for re-election. All of a sudden it became clear to the North Vietnamese and Vietcong that they could make the Americans beat themselves.

### Source B: A modern historian writing about why the USA lost the war in Vietnam

The USA was defeated not because it used the wrong tactics, but because it was backing a government which had very little support in South Vietnam. This government was corrupt and cruel. It treated the Buddhist peasants very badly. The USA did not only have a weak ally, it also faced a very strong enemy. The Vietcong were not a bunch of barefoot guerrillas but a highly trained, fiercely determined and well-armed fighting force. They had beaten foreign invaders before and were determined to defeat the USA as well. They would not give up.

### Source C: General Giap, Military Commander of the North Vietnamese Army, speaking in 1967

In sending American troops to Vietnam, the US invaders have met a people's war. The people of Vietnam have gathered together to fight their attackers in all ways and with all kinds of weapons. We will fight for another twenty years, even a hundred years, as long as it takes to win, regardless of the cost.

*Source A: from Everything We Had – An Oral History of the Vietnam War, A. Santoli, 1981 (adapted)*

*Source B: from America and the Vietnam War, G. J. DeGroot, 2000 (adapted)*

*Source C: quoted in Modern World History GCSE, Christopher Culpin, 1998*

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