

Unit 1 International Relations 1943 – 1991 - key words. You need to be able to use these terms with confidence in the exam.

Airlift – flying planes with coal or food into an area that has been blockaded by your enemy. For example, the Berlin Airlift 1948 - 49.
AVO – Secret Police in Communist Hungary. They were brutal and hated by the people due to the torture that they carried out.
Bizonia – Name given in 1947 to the three Capitalist sectors of Germany (occupied by USA, France and Britain) before it became known as the West Germany.
Boycott – Not attending a competition or not buying a product. In the Cold War the two Superpowers boycotted each others Olympic Games; Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984
Brinkmanship – In a crisis the Superpowers do not back down, but in turn they increase the tension further which looks like it will end in war. For example the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962.
Buffer Zone – from 1946 the states of Eastern Europe were occupied by the Soviet Union to create a buffer zone to protect the USSR against any invasion.
Capitalism – an ideology that all profit can be kept by the person who made the money. USA has several parties to choose from when voting in an election.
Cold War – two opposing Superpowers (and allies) who do not actually have a war, but their views and changing relations are so bad that everyone believes they will go to war.
Communism – an ideology that all wealth is shared and factories are owned by the State. USSR only one party to vote for in an election, the Communist, who controlled everything.
De-Stalinisation – Khrushchev in 1956, delivered a speech secretly criticised Stalin regime. His 'secret speech' became known, but it backfired in the Uprising in Hungary when Soviet tanks were sent in to crush the Uprising.
Detente - a period of relaxed tension (or a thaw in the mid 1960's and early 1970's) in the Superpowers relationship; including treaties, co-operation or an increase in trade.
Deterioration - getting worse, a relationship getting worse than before.
Deutschmark – in 1948 a new currency was introduced into West Berlin and West Germany, backed up by the USA.
Doctrine – A foreign policy or statement (by USA) after WWII, to contain Communism spreading.
Domino theory – USA believed that Communism had to be contained and not allowed to spread into other countries. If one country became Communist (like Vietnam) then other countries around would 'fall' into Communism.
Eastern Europe – Countries under the sphere of influence of the USSR from 1946 to 1990.
Glasnost – Gorbachev's policy of openness in the media and reporting of events. However, a journalist could not criticise the Communist party.
Hotline – In 1963 a direct phone line between Washington and Moscow put in place after the Cuban missile crisis to improve communication between the two leaders of the Cold War.
Ideology – putting into practice a political idea such as Communism or Capitalism.
Invasion – Taking over another country by force, like the Bay of Pigs fiasco 1961 was a failed invasion of Cuba, supported by the CIA, to topple the Communist leader Fidel Castro.
Iron Curtain – in 1946 a figure of speech to describe the division (ideological, military and physical) of Eastern and Western Europe after WWII. The 'Iron curtain' was viewed as impregnable, no-one got in or out.
MAD – Mutually Assured Destruction. During the Arms Race neither side could win a nuclear war therefore making a nuclear war pointless.
NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation 1949. Led by the USA a military alliance whereby all members' states would support any Capitalist country if they were attacked.
Pact – An alliance or military agreement like Warsaw Pact 1955.
Peaceful co-existence – A period of detente, the Superpowers agree to get along, limit weapons and

began to cooperate with one another.
Perestroika - Gorbachev's policy about restructuring the economy allowing people in the USSR to earn some money.
Puppet Government – A Superpower appoints a Satellite state's leader knowing that they will be sympathetic and will carry out their orders.
Reform – a change of the law or conditions in country by the Government.
Refugee – A person trying to leave one country to live and work in another country. For example when East Berliners fled to West Berlin before the Wall was built in 1961.
SALT – Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. The two Superpowers held two talks (SALT I 1969 – 72 and SALT II 1977 – 79) to limit the number of nuclear weapons.
Satellite state – A small country whose Government, leaders and military is heavily influenced (or controlled) by a Superpower
Soviet Union – Another term for the USSR.
Sphere of influence – A country, or group of countries, which has been forced to be with or Allied with one Superpower.
Summit – Meeting by the Superpowers leaders throughout the Cold War. The meetings were often inconclusive as other events meant that could not agree – sometimes Summits were positive and they did reach agreements.
Treaty – A signed document by the two Superpowers to deliver on an agreement. For example the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963.
Uprising – When the people challenge the ruling ideology for a change of Government like the Hungarian Uprising 1956.
USA – United States of America. A Superpower, a Capitalist economy and a democracy
USSR – Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The USSR was a Superpower, a Communist country with a one party state.
Western Europe – the area under in Western Europe the sphere of influence of the USA like West Germany (1949)