

# QE School GCSE History Induction Pack

A guide to help you get ready for  
History @ QE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Welcome to GCSE History

# What will I study?

The course that you are studying is:

AQA History

The course code is 8145

You will sit two papers at the end of year 11 as detailed below. Each exam is worth 50% of your final grade

Paper 1 – Understanding the Modern World 2 hours	Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation 2 hours
Section A: Period Study Option 1B Germany, 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship	Section A: Thematic Study Option 2A Britain: Health and the People: c1000 to the Present Day
Section B: Wider World Depth Study Conflict and tension in Asia 1950-75 Korea and Vietnam	Section B: British Depth Study Norman England, c1066-1100

Useful websites:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxjk4j6>

## **Introduction**

Firstly make a copy of the booklet and save it in your work area with your name on it. You can type directly into your copy of the booklet so in September you can use the research you have done to help with your assignment work.

This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to start GCSE History in September. It is aimed to be used throughout the remainder of the Summer term and over the Summer Holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

## **Research Activities**

Research, reading and note making are essential skills for studying any subject at KS4. In History we use a variety of sources in order to complete our research - books, websites, video clips and investigations. The activities in this booklet will help you to improve the skills you will need as part of the History course but at the same time increase your knowledge so we are able to get started quickly with the course in September.

The unit we start with is Germany 1890-1945. This is the story of how Germany developed into a democratic country and how the Nazis came to power and unleashed chaos on the world. However, I would also like you to do some work on our other units in preparation for September to give you a flavour of the course.

There are two activities a week. I've split it up for you to make it easier to plan your work. If you have any problems then please email your history teacher.

---

## Week 1

---

### Activity 1 - What was Germany like before WWI?

Fill in the blanks below:

Germany did not \_\_\_\_\_ as a country before 1870. Instead it was a collection of \_\_\_\_\_ states with a similar language and culture. The most powerful state was called Prussia. Prussia was known for having a powerful \_\_\_\_\_. The army was so powerful that in 1871 they defeated \_\_\_\_\_ in a war known as the Franco-Prussian War. Germany was unified soon afterwards with Prussia taking charge. The Prussian capital city, \_\_\_\_\_, became the German capital and the Prussian King became the first German Emperor. His name was Kaiser Wilhelm and when he died in 1888 his \_\_\_\_\_ took over. He was the last German Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II.

France

army

exist

small

Berlin

son



### Task: Who was Kaiser Wilhelm II

Produce a fact file on this key character:

- Family background: ties to Queen Victoria?
- Childhood and upbringing: his disability
- What was he like as Kaiser?: How did he rule? Was he popular? Role in the start of WWI?
- What happened to him?: Abdication and exile.

Your factfile can include images and diagrams.  
The websites below would be useful to use.

Websites:

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/kaiser-wilhelm-ii>

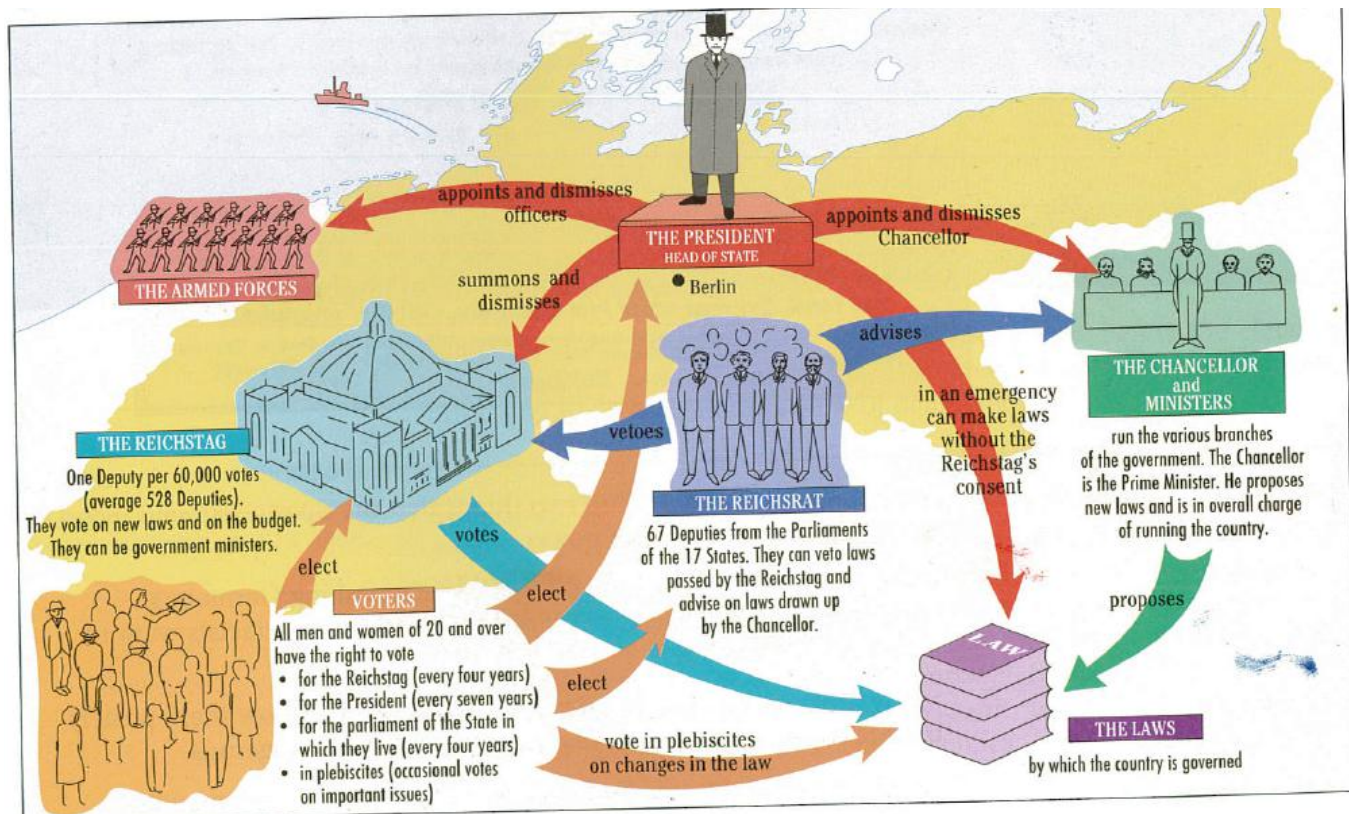
[https://www.ducksters.com/history/world\\_war\\_i/kaiser\\_wilhelm\\_ii.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_i/kaiser_wilhelm_ii.php)

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/first-world-war/life-of-the-week-kaiser-wilhelm-ii/>

---



## Activity 2 - What was the Weimar Republic?



Watch the clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vO-HXO7HwY>

In November 1918 Germany faced defeat in WWI. The Kaiser abdicated his throne which meant that he gave it up voluntarily. Germany became a democracy. When they decided how Germany was going to be governed there was fighting on the streets of Berlin so the new government met in a town called Weimar. This is why this government was given the name by historians, The Weimar Republic.

Look at the diagram above and answer the questions below:

1. What were the powers of the President?
2. What was the Chancellor?
3. What was the Reichstag?
4. Who was able to vote?





## Week 2

---

### Activity 3 - How did the Nazi Party develop?

Watch the clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br-QxsOJ-Jg>

Complete the table below:

 <p>What do you learn about Hitler?</p>	 <p>How did Hitler join and takeover the Nazi Party?</p>
 <p>What happened in Munich in 1923?</p>	 <p>What helped Hitler to come to power in 1933?</p>

Describe and define the key terms below:

Anti-semitism

Mein Kampf

StormTroopers/Brownshirts/SA

Swastika

Communism

## Activity 4 - How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?

Watch the clips and make notes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTelu2mMeuA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y26XsANjgJU>

Colour code the boxes below using the three categories:

Economic problems

Political problems with the Weimar Republic

Things the Nazis said/did



In October 1929 the Wall Street Crash led to the Great Depression. Germany was hit particularly badly because American banks recalled loans given to Germany in 1923. German industry collapsed causing millions to lose their jobs.	The main political parties such as the Social Democrats and the Centre Party quarrelled amongst themselves rather than uniting to face the Nazis' challenge.	Nazi posters and pamphlets could be found everywhere. Rallies impressed people with their energy, enthusiasm and sheer size.	The Weimar government collapsed when the Social Democrats withdrew from the coalition in 1930. The President used emergency powers to rule without the Reichstag (parliament).
The Nazis blamed many of Germany's problems on reparations being paid from WWI. They promised to get rid of the Treaty of Versailles and restore German greatness.	President Hindenburg was an 84-year-old war hero, apparently controlled by business and army leaders, and who seemed to be well past his prime.	The Nazis stirred up violence with the Communists at election meetings so that the SA could crush it and be seen to be 'dealing with the Communist threat'.	The Depression affected many people. For those who had lost their jobs there was poverty, hunger and homelessness. By 1932 6 million were out of work
The Nazis gave the German people culprits to blame for their troubles – the Allies, the 'November Criminals' and the Jews. Hitler promised to get rid of 'the enemies within' who were destroying Germany.	Hitler's strong personality and powerful ideas appealed to many Germans at a time when the Weimar Republic didn't seem to have a clue.	Many middle class Germans voted for the Nazis as they were more scared of the Communists taking over.	The Nazis claimed that the Weimar government was weak and Germany needed strong leadership. Hitler was the man for the job.
Hitler made popular promises such, 'Work, Bread and Freedom.' They didn't have firm policies and often changed their ideas if they were unpopular. They organised soup kitchens and provided shelter in hostels for the unemployed.	The Nazis used technology. Radio was used for the first time. In the 1932 presidential election, while Hindenburg gave just one election speech, Goebbels chartered planes to fly Hitler all over Germany in order to speak to four or five massive rallies per day.	The Weimar government seemed to have no idea what to do about the problems of rising unemployment and growing poverty. They raised taxes, cut wages and reduced unemployment benefits – all very unpopular policies.	Other parties were very weak and they underestimated the Nazis. The Social Democrats feared a putsch, but they thought that the Nazis' campaigning was so absurd that ordinary Germans would not vote for them.

## Exams skills focus:

An interpretation is an opinion about an event from a point further on in time. The key skill with this question is to understand how the interpretations are different and why they are different. Have a go at the questions below.

Read **Interpretations A** and **B** and answer the questions **01**, **02** and **03** on page 3.

**Interpretation A** Albert Speer, writing in his book, 'Inside the Third Reich' written in 1960.

He remembers hearing Adolf Hitler speak in January 1931 at Berlin University. Albert Speer went on to become the Nazi Minister for weapons. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison after the war and released in 1966.

Everything about him was reasonable and ordinary looking; he was no shrieking fanatic in a uniform. He spoke passionately; it was hypnotic and persuasive. We were carried on a wave of enthusiasm. It swept away our doubts. Here, it seemed was hope, new ideals, a new understanding. The peril of communism could be stopped.

**Provenance** - This is who wrote the interpretation. When? Also think about purpose. Why was it written?

**Content** This is what the interpretation is actually saying

**Interpretation B** Victor Schiff, in an article written in 1950 where he explains Hitler's rise to power.

Schiff was a German journalist and socialist who worked as the Paris correspondent for the American 'Daily Herald' newspaper in the 1930s.

If there is one point on which we all agree, it must be surely that Hitler owes his rise and ultimate victory to the World Economic Crisis. Hitler appealed to the despair of the unemployed workers; the young people who had no future; to the middle class businessman and craftsman heading for bankruptcy and to the farmers threatened with a fall in agricultural prices.

**Provenance**

**Content**

1. How does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about Hitler's appeal to the people of Germany? (4 marks)

Interpretation B is different because it says that people like Hitler because...

Whereas in interpretation A it says that the only reason that Hitler came to power was because...

2. Why might the authors of interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about Hitler's appeal to the German people? (4 marks)

Interpretation A was written by... so... The date was... This means that the purpose of the author was to...

Whereas interpretation B was written by... His purpose would be to.. because...



### Week 3

#### Activity 5 - How did Hitler turn Germany into a dictatorship?



These are the key events that helped Hitler to go from being Chancellor in 1933 to the Führer, a dictator by August 1934.

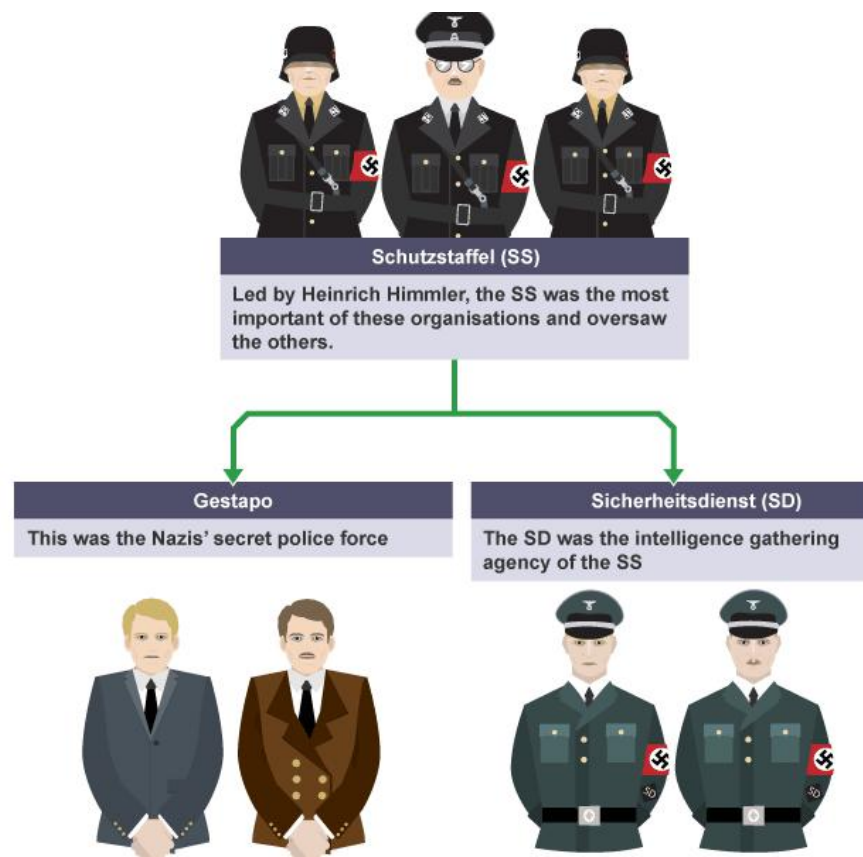
Read through the information on the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zckbmbn/revision/4>

Summarise the information in the table below:

What happened?	How did it help Hitler?
Reichstag Fire	
Enabling Act	
Political Parties Banned	
Night of the Long Knives	
Hitler become Fuhrer	

## Activity 6 - What was life like in Nazi Germany?



When Hitler came to power he established a dictatorship using the organisations in the diagram to rule through fear.

However there were also benefits to Nazi rule. They promised work and bread to the German people and largely delivered on this.

They also promised to restore German pride and greatness and again they delivered on much of this until WWII.

Watch the video clip and make notes on the positive and negatives of living in Nazi Germany.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2VE--RqpyQ>

Positives	Negatives

---

## Week 4

---

### Activity 7 - Why did the USA and the USSR fall out after WWII?

For the next two weeks we are going to focus on the Conflict and Tension in Asia topic. This was during a time known as the Cold War when the USA and the USSR became bitter international rivals but never actually fought against each other as it risked nuclear war. The conflict lasted from 1945 until the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

This image shows when American and USSR troops met up in WWII. The USSR had pushed back German troops from the east and the Americans and their Allies from the west.



However as you can see the smiles and handshakes soon disappeared once Nazi Germany had been defeated.

**Bad news**  
The bad news for world peace was that:

**Within one year** of the photograph in Source 1, the Soviet and American leaders were accusing each other of breaking the promises they had made during war-time.

**Within two years**, the American President was promising his help to anyone who would stand up to the USSR.

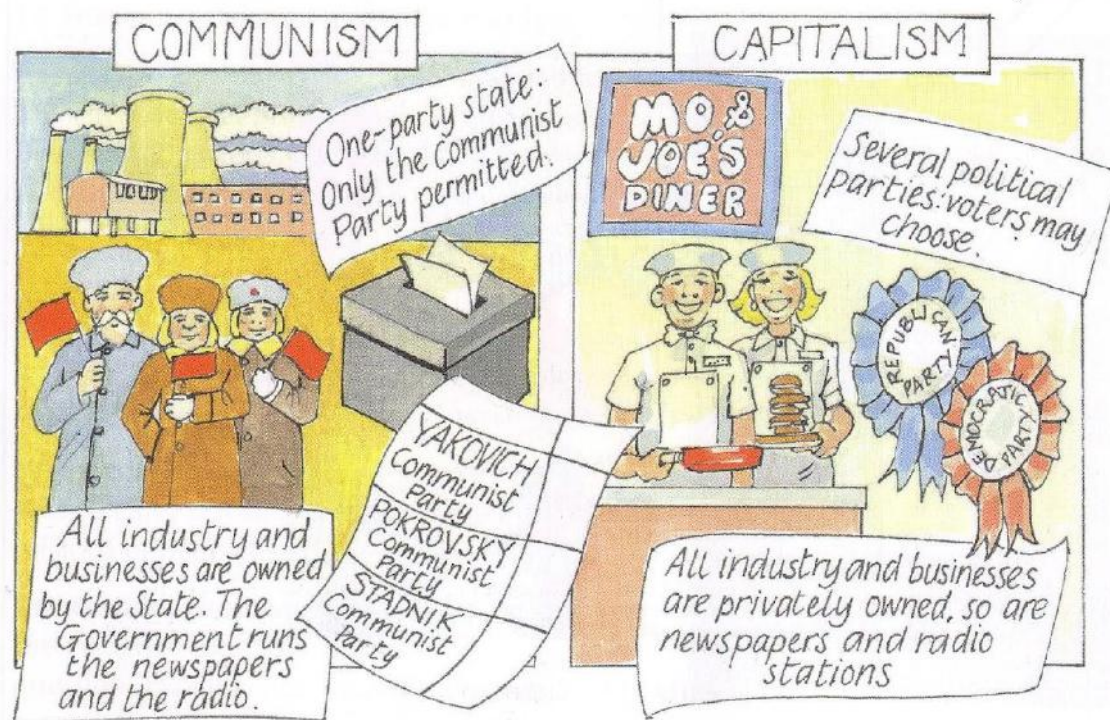
**Within four years**, it looked very likely that the two war-time allies would declare war on each other.

Read through the information below and complete the table to show the differences between the USA - a capitalist democracy and the USSR - a communist dictatorship.

Note:

The USSR existed from 1922 to 1991 and was made up chiefly of what we call Russia today. It was also referred to as the Soviet Union.





## Factfile

### USA

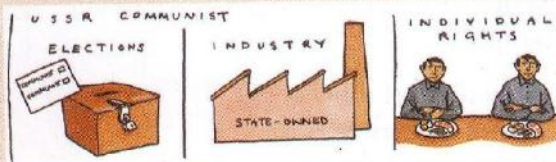
#### USA CAPITALIST AND DEMOCRATIC



- ★ American society was based on two key ideas: democracy and CAPITALISM.
- ★ Democracy meant that the American President and Congress were elected in free elections. They could be voted out if the American people were unhappy with them.
- ★ Capitalism meant that property and businesses were owned by private individuals and companies.
- ★ The USA was the world's richest country, **but** there were extremes of wealth and poverty.
- ★ For Americans, the rights and freedoms of individual Americans (for example, free speech, freedom to start a business) were more important than everyone being equal.
- ★ The majority of Americans believed passionately in the American way. They felt that Communism threatened their way of life.

## Factfile

### USSR



- ★ Soviet society was based on Communist ideas.
- ★ It was a one-party state. There were elections, but Soviet people could only elect Communists.
- ★ Industry was organised and run by the state.
- ★ Unemployment and extreme poverty were rare, but the general STANDARD OF LIVING of most Soviet citizens was much lower than for the average American.
- ★ Communists believed that the rights of individuals were less important than the good of society as a whole. As a result, there were many restrictions on the individual's freedom to travel, read certain books, start a business, etc.



Different Beliefs	USA - Capitalist	USSR - Communist
Elections		
Industry		
Standard of living		
Beliefs		

### Activity 8 - Who was to blame for the start of the Cold War?

Watch the clip below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb8aW46T3bg&t=52s>

Complete the grid. You need to read through the information then write in which country you believe was most to blame for each event contributing to the start of the Cold War with a reason. Once finished, complete a conclusion about which country was most to blame.

Event	Details	Who was to blame? USA, USSR, Both
Feb 1945 Yalta Conference	The leaders of the USA (Roosevelt), Great Britain (Churchill) and the USSR (Stalin) met to decide what to do with Germany after the war. They became known as the big three. They agreed to: Divide Germany into 4. (USA,USSR, GB, FRA) Divide Berlin into 4. Berlin was in the Soviet Zone. Free elections in the States of Eastern Europe. USSR to enter the war against Japan in exchange for land Set up the UN	Neither. The two sides were mostly in agreement.
Jul 1945 Potsdam Conference	Big changes had occurred since YALTA: The Big Three were Truman (USA), Attlee (GB) and Stalin. Truman was anti-communist. The USSR had left its army in Eastern Europe and were occupying it. There was a Communist government in Poland and Eastern Germany. The USA had developed the atomic bomb. The other decisions from Yalta remained but cooperation was over.	.
Aug 1945 Atomic bombs	<b>Hiroshima on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 killed 70,000</b> people within 2 seconds. <b>Nagasaki on 9<sup>th</sup> August killed 50,000</b> people within 2 seconds. Japan unconditionally surrendered to the USA on the 14 <sup>th</sup> August. The USSR was not allowed to share in the defeat of Japan as agreed at Yalta. The USA had acted without telling the USSR.	

dropped on Japan		
Mar 1946 Iron Curtain speech	Communist governments were set up in the countries of Eastern Europe that had been 'freed' from the Nazis by the USSR. They became known as satellite states. Churchill gave a speech saying that, <i><b>"An iron curtain has descended across the continent."</b></i>	
Mar 1947 The Truman Doctrine	President Truman pledged <b>\$400 million to help Greece and Turkey</b> from the threat of communist takeover. Truman made it clear that the US would aim to stop the spread of communism around the world. This became known as <b>containment</b> .	
Jun 1947 The Marshall Plan announced	General George Marshall visited Europe and concluded that poverty = communist threat. More than <b>\$17 billion</b> was given to European countries including Britain, France and West Germany to halt the spread of communism. The US benefited from increased trade with these countries as they could now afford to buy their goods. The USSR called it 'dollar imperialism'. (Using money to take over countries.)	
Sep 1947 Cominform set up by Stalin	This was the <b>USSR's reaction to the Truman Doctrine</b> – it was an organisation that was set up to "coordinate" Communist groups and parties across Europe.	
June 1948 Berlin Blockade and Airlift	Stalin blocked all road, rail and canal links with West Berlin. The USA saw this as the first stage of an attack on West Germany. The Allies responded with <b>constant airlifts of supplies into West Berlin for over 11 months</b> . Despite constant shortages, the city was able to survive due to the <b>2 million tons of supplies dropped</b> . By May 1949 Stalin was forced to concede defeat and he lifted the blockade. This had shown the Truman doctrine in action.	

Conclusion: Who was most to blame? Explain your answer.

---

## Week 5

---

### Activity 9 - What happened during the Korean War?



The Korean War was an example of a proxy-war (war fought at arm's length) between the USA and the USSR. In this case the USSR backed the communist North and the US backed the UN forces that defended the South.

The two countries are still technically at war. There is a demilitarised zone along the border which was established during the armistice of 1953.

Watch the video and answer the following questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxaegqvl4aE>

1. What happened to Korea at the end of WWII in 1945?
  2. How was Korea divided and who was put in charge?
  3. What happened in 1950?
  4. Why did the US push the UN to get involved?
  5. What do we learn about the UN forces that went to defend the South? Who was in charge?
  6. What happened on September 15th 1950?
  7. What did the UN troops do on 7th October 1950? Why was Truman worried?
  8. How did China respond?
  9. Why was MacArthur dismissed?
  10. What happened in June 1951?
  11. How did fighting continue during the stalemate?
  12. Which US President came to power in 1953 and ended the war?
-

## Activity 10 - What happened during the Vietnam War?

Vietnam was another example of a proxy-war. Again the USSR backed the North and the US backed the South. However, if Korea had been a draw then Vietnam was a loss for the USA despite spending billions of dollars and losing thousands of young US troops.



Watch the clip below and make notes on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9PNAUjDnGU>

1. What was the situation in Vietnam?
2. Who were the Vietcong?
3. What tactics did they use?
4. What were the American tactics?
5. What was the Tet offensive?
6. Why was it a turning point in Vietnam?



## Week 6

### Activity 11 - How did medicine develop from 1000 to the present day?

We are moving onto one of our other topics for this week. This topic is called Health and the People from 1000-Present Day. In this topic we cover a long period of history but are only looking at the development of medicine and public health.



Read through your timeline and complete the list of key individuals who contributed to the development of medicine. For each one add the date and their contribution. There are a collection of videos you can watch to help you complete the last column:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/medicine-through-time/zdcy8xs>

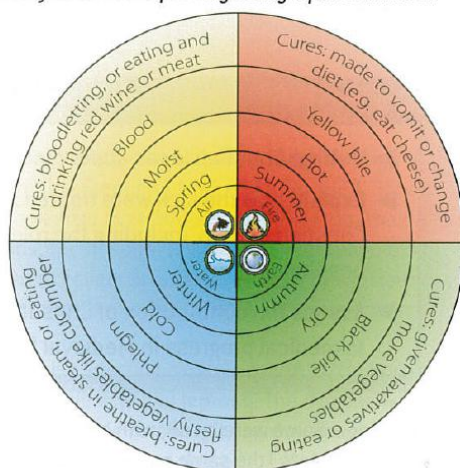
Date	Person	Contribution
	Hippocrates	
	Galen	
	Vesalius	
	Pare	
	Harvey	
	Jenner	
	Pasteur	
	Nightingale	
	Lister	
	Koch	
	Fleming	

## Activity 12 - What did people believe caused disease and illness?

For hundreds of years people followed the ideas of the Ancient Greek doctor Hippocrates about the Four Humours. Watch the clip:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/medicine-through-time-medieval-medicine/zbctscw>

▼ **B** According to the theory of the four humours, each element was strongest in a specific season, with specific qualities. The element showed itself in the corresponding bodily liquid or humour.



Complete the table using the diagram to help you:

Humour	Cures

---

## Week 7

---

### **Activity 13 - What was Anglo-Saxon England like?**

Finally we will look at the Norman England topic. The Normans conquered England in 1066. At the time England was ruled by a group known as the Anglo Saxons. Research the questions below and produce a one page fact file.

- Who were the Anglo-Saxons? Where had they come from?
- Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms - how was England divided
- What was life like in Anglo-Saxon England?
- Examples of famous Saxon kings
- Who were the Vikings?
- What about Wales? Scotland?



<https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3865/anglo-saxons-a-brief-history>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm/articles/zqrc9j6>

---

### **Activity 14 - What was the Norman 's legacy in England?**

The Normans had a huge impact on our history. The language contains many French words and they changed the way that England was governed and ruled. However, the most obvious legacy was left in stone. The Normans introduced castles to England. Research a Norman castle and include information about:

- When was it built?
- How did the castle develop?
- Any significant events at the castle?
- Include images



Here are some ideas to help with your research:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle>

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/history-and-stories/the-story-of-the-tower-of-london/#gs.6aj6mz>

---



I hope you've enjoyed your introduction to GCSE History  
See you in September

