

Year 12 Topics

In year 12 we teach the following topics over the course of the year. Each topic draws on prior learning from previous years and builds on understanding from the KS3 programme of study. Each topic develops and deepens the Core knowledge that will underpin all areas of the curriculum at KS5 and onward into undergraduate courses.

Topic	Rationale	Knowledge acquisition	Key vocabulary	Skills and enrichment
Post- War Germany	Each topic is part of the A-Level specification	What was Germany like at the end of World War Two? What were the main problems and what were the solutions?	Refugees, displaced persons, allied occupation, De-Nazification, economy, food shortages	A01 A02
		How was Germany divided after World War Two? What were the agreements, what would be the impact of these- short/long term	Yalta, Potsdam, Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill, allies, short term strategy, long term strategy, zones of occupation, buffer zone, spheres of influence, buffer zone, Big Three, Communist, Capitalist	
		Who would govern each zone of Germany? What did each power want?	Britain, France, America, Germany, Russia, allies, Bizonia, Trizonia	
		Who were the SED/how were they created?	Walter Ulbricht, Ulbricht group, exile, KPD (German Communist Party), SPD (German Social Democratic Party), SED (Socialist Unity Party), Neues Deutschland, Purge, Marxist-Leninist	
		How did the GDR form? What did the powers think of this?	Bizonia, Trizonia, Communist, Capitalist, Berlin Blockade, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), post war strategy	
Creation of the GDR		How was the GDR governed? Why did the SED want this?	Constitution, Federal Republic, Volkskammer, working class, bourgeoisie, collectivisation, Marxist-Leninist, Council of Ministers, State	A01 A02

			Planning Commission, Politburo, Walter Ulbricht	
		Was the system of government democratic?	Constitution, Federal Republic, Volkskammer, working class, bourgeoisie, collectivisation, Marxist-Leninist, Council of Ministers, State Planning Commission, Politburo, Walter Ulbricht, Landerkammer	
		Why were the SED so dominant?	Constitution, Federal Republic, Volkskammer, working class, bourgeoisie, collectivisation, Marxist-Leninist, Council of Ministers, State Planning Commission, Politburo, Walter Ulbricht, Landerkammer, Party Congresses, Central Committee, Party Organisations, cult of Personality	
Early economy		What was the economy like post- war, what were the problems, what were the solutions?	Second World War, bombing, USSR, Stalin, reparations, ideological	A01 A02
		What was the ideology behind the economy?	USSR, Stalin, Marxist-Leninist, Ideology, Communist, Capitalism, Centralised Planning	
		What were the Five Year plans, were they effective?	First Five-Year plan, industry, production quotas, nationalisation, people's enterprises, heavy industry, Adolf Hennecke, consumer goods, second Five-Year plan, 'Modernisation, Mechanisation and Automation', nuclear energy, Seven-Year plan, Nikita Khrushchev	

		What was Agricultural Collectivisation, did it work?	Junker class, peasants, machinery, livestock, shortages, collectivisation	
		What was the June 1953 Uprising?	Dissatisfaction, resentment, Stalinaleeee, House of Ministries, SED, USSR	
		What was the impact of the Uprising?	Purge, anti-Communist, Siberia, repression, re-organisation	
		What was the Warsaw Pact?	Warsaw Pact, re-unification	
		What was the impact of Socialist economics?	Industry, consumer goods, dissatisfaction, GDR, FRG	
Topic	Rationale	Knowledge acquisition	Key vocabulary	Skills and enrichment
The Building of the Berlin Wall		Who was emigrating/Why was this a problem?	Emigration, population, Flight from the Republic, imprisoned, visa, Brain Drain, Stasi	A01 A02
		What was the Second Berlin Crisis? What did this mean for the powers, why did the crisis happen?	Khrushchev, President Eisenhower, Paris summit, spy plane, missile	
		When/how/Why was the Berlin Wall built?	Ulbricht, Warsaw Pact, emigration, Operation Rose	
		What was the impact of the Berlin Wall?	Emigration, economy, control, propaganda, separate identity, Grenzverletzer	
		How influential was Nikita Khrushchev?	Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet, de-Stalinisation, Peaceful co-existence, Ultimatum	
Economic Stabilisation		Why was the economy more stable after the Berlin Wall? What did the people of the GDR want?	Berlin Wall, living standards, Honecker	A01 A02
		How did the end of mass emigration help the economy?	Berlin Wall, lack of protest, reaction of the West	

		What was the New Economic system, what were the successes/failures?	Ulbricht, Gunter Mittag, Office for Industry and Construction, economic planning, profit-making, incentives, production levels, resources	
		What was the Economic System of Socialism, Why was it introduced?	ESS (economic system of socialism) industry, agriculture, USSR, computer technology, chemical industry, consumer goods,	
		How was the ESS scrapped? What were the implications of this?	Ulbricht, Honecker, Politburo,	
		What was the OPEC crisis?	OPEC, economy	
		Were consumer goods increased, what was the impact on the people?	Chemical, electrical, light-engineering industries, consumer goods, production, dissatisfaction, Delikat, Exquisit, Intershops, Deutschmarks,	Include opportunities to develop subject specific skills plus general core skills including independence, problem solving, evaluation, analysis, creativity, literacy, numeracy and oracy
		Why did the GDR need loans from the West? What was the impact of this?	Deutschmarks, loans, fuel, planning, quotas, Trebants	
		Membership of COMECON- What was COMECON, Why did the GDR join?	COMECON, USSR, labour shortage	
Topic	Rationale	Knowledge acquisition	Key vocabulary	Skills and enrichment
Creating an identity for the GDR		How and why did Honecker come to power?	Politburo, Honecker, Ulbricht,	t A01 A02
		How was mass media used to create an identity- newspaper, radio, television, What was the impact of this?	Neues Deutschland, Propaganda, censorship, Radio DDR1, Berliner Rundfunk, Fernsehen der DDR, Karl Eduard Von Schnitzler, Der Schwarze Kanal (The Black Channel), The Sand Man, Abgrenzung,	
		How was the idea of an identity for the GDR furthered? Was this successful?	Kaufhalle, language, job titles, road signs, made in the GDR, Soviet language, Trabant	
		Why was sport encouraged?	Mass participation, propaganda	

		Why was International sport encouraged? What was the impact?	Olympics, doping, Stasi, propaganda, amateur status, performance-enhancing drugs, International recognition	
		Positives and negatives of creating an identity	Propaganda, censorship	
Relations between the GDR and FRG		What was the system of government in the FRG?	Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU), Willy Brandt, Detente	A01 A02
		What was the Hallstein Doctrine?	Hallstein, West Germany, Foreign Secretary	
		What was Ostpolitik?	Willy Brandt, Détente, Hallstein Doctrine, GDR, FRG, NATO, Willi Stoph,	
		What were the benefits of Ostpolitik?	Economic, East Germany, West Germany, Abgrenzung	
		What were the agreements between East and West, why were they made, what does this tell us?	Treaty of Moscow, Treaty of Warsaw, Four Powers Agreement, Basic Treaty, Guillaume affair	
		Why were there relaxations on travel restrictions/ what was the impact of this?	Friedrichstrasse rail station, 24 hour passes, Ostpolitik	
		What was the impact of Ostpolitik? What were the advantages/disadvantages?	European Economic Community, currency exchanges, loans	
How successful was the GDR in improving its international prestige? (1961-85)		What were the Helsinki Accords?	Helsinki Accords, European states, trade	A01 A02
		Why did the GDR want to go on State visits? Where did they go? What was the impact?	Détente, Egypt, Diplomatic relations, Willi Stoph, COMECON, Stasi, NATO,	
		What were relations with COMECON and Warsaw Pact countries like? What was the impact?	Warsaw Pact, COMECON, Brezhnev Doctrine, Ostpolitik	

		How did relations between the USSR and the GDR change?	Brezhnev, Politburo, Ostpolitik, NATO, SED, Brezhnev Doctrine,	
What was life in East Germany like, 1949-85		Housing- What was provided, why, what was the outcome	Bombing, Dresden, Berlin, Prefabricated, Plattenbau, quality,	A01 A02
		Education- What was provided, why, what was the outcome?	Grundschules, vocational, academic, polytechnic, Law on the Unified Socialist education System, University, FDJ	
		Women- What was the role of women? What benefits were there for women in the GDR? What policies were there aimed at women?	Demographics, The Family Code 1966, birth rate, abortion, working hours,	include opportunities to develop subject specific skills plus general core skills including independence, problem solving, evaluation, analysis, creativity, literacy, numeracy and oracy
		Healthcare- What was provided? Why was healthcare provided? What were the results of healthcare provision? What were the positives/negatives?	Polyclinics, social stability, economic resources	
How did the state use repression and support to maintain control?		Who were the Stasi?	State security service, Stasi, Erich Mielke,	A01 A02
		What did the Stasi do? What methods did they use?	Informal members, fear, surveillance, bugging, Abegrenzung, mood reports, propaganda, censorship, IRA (Irish Republican Army), PLO, (Palestinian Liberation organisation) Red Army Faction,	
		Why did people work with the Stasi? What were the benefits?	Recruitment, career	
		How did the GDR control young people? What was the FDJ? What were the implications for those who didn't join?	Free German Youth, Junge Welt, recruitment,	

How did the state use repression and support to maintain control?		How was propaganda used? How effective was the use of propaganda?	Third party congress, Black Channel, military propaganda,	A01 A02
		How was Censorship used? How effective was the use of censorship?	Stasi, Public relations office, The Rabbit is me, Hands up or I'll shoot, Dallas, dynasty,	
		How much popular support was there for the GDR? What were the reasons behind this?	Niche society, living standards,	
What was the role of the Protestant Church?		What was the relationship between Church and State like after WW2?	Protestant, Catholic, Christian democratic Union Party, Jungendweihe,	A01 A02
		What was the role of the Church in education?	Jungendweihe, Junge Gemeinden,	
		How and why did a dialogue emerge between the Church and the State? When was this?	Ostpolitik, social care, economy, Helsinki Accords, Pastor Oskar Brusewitz, détente,	
How far did western influences have an impact on life in the GdR?		What was the impact of Ostpolitik? Why did East to West travel increase? What was the impact of this?	Willy Brandt, East to West travel, Reisekader,	A01 A02
		How far did TV influence people? What TV was watched? What Western influences were there?	Beat-Club, Sand Man, aerials,	
		How far did film influence people? What films were watched? What Western influences were there?	Close Encounters of the Third Kind, ET, Fame, James Bond	
		How far did music influence people? What music was listened to? What Western influences were there?	Radio Luxembourg, Dt64, underground groups, Beat music, Punk,	
How far did western influences		What was the impact of Ostpolitik? Why did East to West travel increase? What was the impact of this?	Willy Brandt, East to West travel, Reisekader,	A01 A02

have an impact on life in the GdR?		What was the impact of these influences? Was the impact the same for all age groups?	Dresden, Leipzig, Capitol gang, fashion, conformity, generation	
Why were the economic problems of the GDR so bad by the late 1980's?		What was the economy like by the 1980's?	Political prisoners, subsidised, Five Year plan, expenditure,	A01 A02
		Why was the national debt growing so much? What was done to try and stop this?	Exports, Schurer-Papier, Gunter Mittag, GDPR	
		Could spending on health and welfare continue? What were the problems?		
		Why was the quality of consumer goods so poor? Why was this such an issue for the people of the GDR? What was done to attempt to solve this?	Heavy industry, private sector, Buckware, Trabant,	
		What were economic relations with the West like? Why had this relationship changed?	Export, import, dissidents,	
How significant was Gorbachev's refusal to support the GdR?		What were the reform movements in Europe, what did this mean for the GDR?	Solidarity, dissent,	A01 A02
		What was Glasnost and Perestroika? What was the impact? How would this effect the GDR?	Perestroika, Glasnost, Cold War, Brezhnev doctrine, reform, propaganda, Pravda,	
Why was there pressure for reform?		Why were there growing calls for reform? Where did these calls come from? Was there a serious threat?	Western counter culture, peace, ecological problems, women's rights, Leipzig, Umweltblatter, reunification	A01 A02
		What was the role of the Protestant Church in opposition?	Rudi Mittig, The Church from Below, (Kirche Von Unten)	

		Why was there a decline in the authority of the SED? What did this lead to?	Standards of living, Honecker, economy, Gorbachev	
How did events in 1989 lead to a sudden opening of the Berlin Wall?		What did the SED believe about how long the wall would last?	Project High Tech Wall 2000	A01 A02
		What happened in Hungary? What was the impact? What did this lead to?	Warsaw Pact, borders, emigration, New Forum, catalyst, public rallies, St Nikolai Church,	
		Why did Gorbachev visit East Berlin? What was the impact? Why were the SED still refusing to reform?	40 th anniversary, demonstrations, domestic reforms, Brezhnev doctrine, Tiananmen Square massacre	
		Why did Honecker's influence decline? Why was he dismissed? What was the impact of this?	Politburo, Egon Krenz	
The opening of the Berlin Wall		What did Krenz do when he took power?	Politburo, demonstration, Leipzig, instability, travel concessions	A01 A02
		Why was the Wall opened? Was this a mistake?	Gunter Schabowski, press conference, 9 th November, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie	
		What was the reaction of the Allies?	Brandenburg Gate	
		Did internal or external factors lead to the collapse of the GDR?	Welfare state, western influences, relations with the USSR, Consumer goods, propaganda, censorship, Hungary, borders, reunification, economy	
		Did the fall of the wall necessarily mean reunification?	SED, Helmut Kohl,	A01 A02

Why was reunification so rapid?		Why did the government collapse? What happened in the aftermath of the collapse? What did the people want?	Grassroots, corruption, Politburo, emigration, liberalisation, Volkskammer, Round table, Hans Modrow, Central Committee, Christmas concert	A01 A02
		Why were elections held in March 1990? Who were the contenders? What did they want?	New Forum, democracy now, IFM, Alliance '90, Social democratic Party, Alliance for Germany, Christian democratic Union, Volkskammer,	
		How was the economy reunified?	Currency union, Western consumer goods,	
Why was reunification so rapid?		How was Germany politically unified?	Lander, Two-Plus-Four Treaty, NATO,	A01 A02
		What were the attitudes of the wartime Allies? What were their fears?	Helmut Kohl, Ten point plan, Margaret Thatcher, Gorbachev, President Mitterand, George Bush,	
		How important was Kohl in reunification?	Kohl, Ten-Point plan, 'architect of reunification',	
		Why was reunification so quick? What were the short and long term implications for this? What have been the implications for people who lived in the GDR?	Internal reform, SED, Gorbachev, reunification, protest movement, Wessis, Ossis, Ostalgie, Stasi, interpretations.	