

Year 10 Topics Unit 5 – The Vietnam War

In year 10 we teach the following modules over the course of the year. Each module draws on prior learning from KS3 and builds on understanding from the KS3 programme of study. Each module develops and deepens the Core knowledge that will underpin all areas of the curriculum at KS4, to equip students to pass their GCSE exam in accordance with the content guidance from the exam board, AQA.

Topic	Rationale	Knowledge acquisition	Key vocabulary	Skills and enrichment
What were the major causes, course and effects of the conflict in Vietnam?	To understand the complex and diverse interests of different states and individuals and the ideologies they represented. This will offer issues surrounding Communism and Capitalism, as well as Nationalism and Imperialism, in the context of the growing threat of Communist expansion, through the Domino Theory and the decision to resort to military force to settle disputes.	Describing and explaining why the French were in Vietnam and what happened at Dien Bien Phu? The focus of these lessons is to also understand US policy and intervention after the Battle of Dien Bien Phu as a result of the Geneva Convention and the division. The resulting escalation of the war by the American government. The emphasis is on causation and consequence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes; • Ho Chi Minh; • Dien Bien Phu; • Domino Theory; • Geneva Accords; • John F Kennedy; • Lyndon B Johnson; • Escalation; • Gulf of Tonkin incident; 	<p>Include opportunities to develop subject specific skills plus general core skills including independence, problem solving, evaluation, analysis, creativity, literacy, numeracy and oracy</p> <p>This will involve studying the causes and events of the Cold War in Asia allowing debate and independent thinking about: How and why conflict occurred Why it proved difficult to solve. The role of key individuals and groups; How they shaped change; How they were influenced and affected by international relations and events</p> <p>Understand elements of source evaluation and the importance of differing interpretations Considering some aspects of causation and consequence. This will inevitably lead to students exercising judgement in analysis of problems as well as evaluation</p>
		Students should be made aware of the aims, beliefs and methodology of guerrilla warfare and where the ideas originated. How the different presidents became involved in the conflict from 1950–1963. To ensure that students understand a key feature of the war so that they can explain a number of reasons, link them and prioritise them to explain their significance. This will involve a number of factors. The different tactics used by the US and their relative effectiveness. Begin to develop your students' understanding of the reasons why some Americans wanted peace. Using My Lai as a case study. The	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NLF (National Liberation Front); • VC (Viet Cong) • Guerrilla tactics; • Ambush; • 'Fishes in the sea'; • Booby trap; • Punji Pit; • Black Pyjamas; • Tunnels; • Ho Chi Minh Trail; • U.S. response; • 'hearts and minds'; • Operation Rolling Thunder; 	

		<p>military impact of Tet and its impact on morale in the USA. Linking cause and effect to recognise a significant turning point.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpet bombing; • 'Firefight' • Agent Orange; • Napalm; • Search & Destroy; • Zippo raid; • Psy-Ops; • Draft-dodging; • 'fragging'; • Tet Offensive; • Hue; • Khe Sanh; • Saigon Embassy; • Turning point; • Consequences of type of warfare; • My Lai; 	<p>of arguments and source material.</p>
		<p>The war under President Nixon and how he tried to de-escalate US involvement. Assess the purpose and impact of the bombing of the North between the years 1970–1972. Opposition to war and the reasons why the media coverage of the conflict is so controversial. To understand how the Watergate scandal led to Nixon losing his political capital in the USA with the Democrats and later forced his resignation. The end of the war and the reasons why the USA lost the conflict. Describe the negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference and reasons behind the US decision to withdraw. Also to look at the final defeat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nixon; • Vietnamisation; • 'Mad Bomber'; • 1970-72 - Cambodia & Laos; • Media coverage; • MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) • Walter Cronkite; • Saigon Execution; • 'Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?'; • Wide-ranging opposition groups; • Muhammad Ali; • Jane Fonda; 	

		for the South with the Fall of Saigon in 1975.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VVAW (Vietnam Veterans Against the War)• Kent State shootings;• Watergate;• Paris Peace Talks;• Henry Kissinger;• Peace with Honour;• ceasefire;• NVA (North Vietnamese Army);• Fall of Saigon.• Effects:• Drug addiction;• Boat People;• Birth deficiencies.	
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