

1. Operation Barbarossa

1	What was Operation Barbarossa?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> German invasion of the USSR was launched on 22nd June 1941 3 million German troops invaded It was intended to be a quick victory before winter
2	Why was it delayed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Following the Nazi invasion of Yugoslavia, Barbarossa had to be delayed from 1st June to 22nd
3	How did Stalin react?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin hadn't prepared for invasion either because he hasn't expected it or thought preparing would provoke an attack When the attack happened, it took nearly 2 weeks for Stalin to react and speak publicly 3rd June – Stalin made a speech stressing the themes of patriotism, religion and unity
4	How was leadership inadequate?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin was indecisive – he cancelled plans to move the capital last minute The Soviet army had inexperienced commanders due to the 1937 army purges Stalin refused to allow his southern armies to retreat until it was too late

2. Key Chronology

1	1941	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> June – German invasion of the USSR December – German offensive pushed back from Moscow
2	1942	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> June - New German offensive towards the Caucasus oilfields October – German advance halted at Stalingrad
3	1943	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> February – German surrender at Stalingrad July – New German offensive defeated at Kursk November – Kiev liberated by the Red Army
4	1944	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> January – Siege of Leningrad ends December – Soviet forces reach Budapest
5	1945	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> January – Warsaw captured by the Red Army February – Yalta summit meeting to plan post-war world May – Final defeat of Germany August – Surrender of Japan

3. Key turning points

1	Stage 1 June 1941- Summer 1942	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Initial huge losses for the Soviets – e.g. 665,000 troops captured at Kiev 15th October, the Soviets unsuccessfully tried to make peace with Hitler Bad weather, plus Stalin being able to bring his troops back from Siberia prevented the capture of Moscow
2	Stage 2 1942 to Summer 1943	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> During this stage, Russia stabilised its war effort and build a powerhouse war economy Hitler did not have the resources to compete with Russia in a war of attrition February 1943, Hitler made a major error in refusing to pull his troops out of Stalingrad. This was a military and psychological disaster for the Germans
3	Stage 3 1943 to Summer 1945	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> During this stage, the Soviets moved to the offensive From August 1943 onwards the Soviets gained victories across Eastern Europe In July, Soviet victory at Prokhorovka was a springboard for Soviet counter attacks

4. Impact of the war

1	What was the impact on Russia?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The USSR suffered huge destruction caused by the German advance The USSR also suffered from Soviet 'scorched earth tactics' as the army retreated
2	How did it affect civilians?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Food, fuel and shelter were all in short supply Many factories, hospitals and houses were destroyed Around 12 million civilians died in the war 1700 towns and cities and 70,000 villages were destroyed
3	How did the invading Germans behave?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thousands of Soviet soldiers were held as prisoners of war Thousands of Soviet workers were conscripted to work in German factories Captured Soviet commissars executed immediately Massacres and deportations of Jews – e.g. September 1941, 34,000 Jews were shot at Babi Yar
4	How did the Soviets mistreat their own?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thousands arrested or executed as slackers, deserters and defeatists 170,000 military personnel were executed for treason Harsh treatment of returned prisoners & of liberated area as they pushed back into Western Europe Mass deportation of ethnic minorities – e.g. May 1944 the Tartar population were deported to Uzbekistan (240,000 people)

Key word	Definition
Blitzkrieg	an intense military campaign intended to bring about a swift victory
Blockade	Sealing off a place to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving
Scorched earth tactics	a military tactic of deliberate destruction of resources so that an invading enemy cannot use them

5. The Soviet war economy

1	How did the army mobilise?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin's early errors lost millions of Red Army men and equipment In 1941, the Red Army had 4.8 million soldiers Conscription added 29.5 million men to the Red Army This was a major strength for the USSR
2	How did the USSR protect the economy?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The German occupation of the western regions destroyed the basis of the Soviet economy Soviet industry was relocated to the Urals and further east away from German bombing Whole factories were dismantled and moved using 20,000 trains 500 factories were moved from Moscow
3	How did the USSR improve their military resources?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> During 1942, the USSR began to build a huge industrial base for war production The centrally controlled command economy was especially effective in producing the resources needed Huge improvements were made to military vehicles and tactics The T-34 tank was equal to the German Tiger tank but was quick to make and repair Mass production of these tanks was central to the Soviet victory in Prokhorovka The USSR could withstand the loss of thousands of tanks because it could build more, whereas the Germans were far from home

1. Reasons for Soviet Victory		
1	German Weaknesses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hitler's strategy relied on securing a rapid victory. From December 1941, Germany had to fight a two-front war Germany lacked self-sufficiency in raw materials and by 1943 this became a problem Hitler had replaced experienced generals with 'yes men' Harsh German repression created resistance movements and partisans in countries they occupied
2	Soviet Strengths	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The USSR's geographic size meant German supply lines were stretched too far by the end of 1941 The size of the USSR allowed whole new armies and factories to be built beyond the German reach The population size was 3x that of Germany so they could replace losses much more easily The USSR had natural resource wealth that allowed them to replace equipment The 'command economy' was well suited to total war and the emergency mobilisation of workers and resources Stalin's Stavka (military command) became ruthlessly effective Propaganda and patriotism motivated the army and civilians to fight – 4 million people volunteered for citizens' defence in 1941
3	Allied contribution & Foreign Aid	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin's allies meant Hitler was fighting on two fronts Mass bombing campaigns by the British and Americans from 1943 inflicted huge damage on Germany's war effort Allied secret intelligence undermined the German war effort Huge quantities of armaments, industrial goods and foodstuffs were transported to the USSR from the USA 300,000 American trucks were supplied through the US Lend-Lease scheme The USSR downplayed the scale of foreign aid but it is clear that it was an important factor

2. Results of victory		
1	Superpower status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The war unleashed the USSR's economic potential The war badly weakened other European powers
2	Communism strength	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Communism was seen to defeat fascism Increased the attraction of a 'socialist road' to development
3	Stalin's power increased	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cult of Stalin was strengthened Stalin took the opportunity to portray himself as a great war hero
4	Territorial gain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Baltic States became Soviet republics Pro-Soviet regimes were established in Eastern European countries
5	Cost of War	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Huge loss of life – at least 20 million civilians killed Much of the economy and infrastructure destroyed
6	International tension	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin feared the USA's influence in Europe There were disagreements over the future of Germany Cold War tensions developed

3. How did Soviet industry recover?		
1	What were Stalin's aims post WW2?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin promised that the USSR would be the world's leading industrial power by 1960 Gosplan launched the fourth Five Year plan in March 1946 It focused on the reconstruction of Ukraine following its devastation in the war
2	What problems did he face?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Soviet industry faced major problems adjusting back to peacetime conditions In 1945, mining production, electricity generation and steel production were around half of 1940 levels Transport infrastructure was badly disrupted Workforce was exhausted and depleted by war End of foreign aid added to pressures on industry High investment in military as a result of the Cold War meant less investment elsewhere – 25% of total investment by 1952
3	How successful was it?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Many of the targets were met or exceeded More coal, oil, steel, cement and electricity were being produced in 1950 compared to 1940 By 1950 Ukraine's industrial output was also higher than before the war Some improvement of consumer goods e.g. cotton fabrics, wool fabrics and sugar were back to pre-war production figures by 1950. Production of shoes, clothes and furniture lagged behind pre-war levels which were already inadequate

Key word	Definition
Cold War	a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare.

3. How did Soviet industry recover?		
4	Why was it successful?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> War reparations transferred masses of material from Germany to the USSR Central planning was able to enforce mass mobilization of people and resources People were proud of the USSR's victory and were willing to make further sacrifices to build on it Recovery from a low base enabled rapid rebuilding of essential services

4. How did Soviet agriculture recover?		
1	What challenges did he face?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Large numbers of farms had been destroyed – 98,000 collective farms Large quantities of farm machinery and livestock had been destroyed Food production in 1945 was at 60% of 1940 levels Deaths and injuries meant a labour shortage 1946 was the driest year since 1891 – famine hit parts of Ukraine and central Russia in 1946-47 – killed around 1.5 million
2	Was recovery successful?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery was slow and patchy The 1946-47 famine highlighted the problems in Soviet agriculture Stalin's writing on the Soviet economy blocked reform for agriculture Payments for farm products were kept very low and taxes were increased In 1948 a ban on selling food from on kolkhozniks' private plots was reintroduced

1. What was High Stalinism?

1	How did the war affect Stalinism?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> During WW2 many aspects of Stalin's dictatorship were softened The regime was keen to mobilise the patriotism of the people For example, religion was tolerated, and churches were reopened
2	What happened after WW2?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> After victory, Stalin turned back to repression, authoritarianism and paranoia This era was known as High Stalinism and was the most extreme expression of Stalinism
3	How was the state and party affected?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There were no Party congresses between 1939 and 1952 The Politburo and Central Committee did only what Stalin ordered The Red Army and its heroes were downgraded so generals like Zhukov didn't have power enough to challenge Stalin Stalin's inner circle were kept divided by Stalin and by their own rivalries Terror was renewed to ensure people were obedient to the state

2. How did the Cult of Personality grow?

1	How did it use the Soviet victory?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin as the heroic leader of the Great Patriotic War The victory replaced the October Revolution as the greatest event in Russian history
2	How was Stalin's genius promoted?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin was portrayed as the world's greatest living genius in all areas of philosophy, science, military strategy and economics It became customary for all books and articles to start and end with a paragraph acknowledging Stalin's genius on the topic Stalin prizes were launched in the USSR when they felt they weren't winning enough Nobel prizes
3	Connection with the public	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin was portrayed as a man of the people who was in touch with the average worker Towns and cities competed for the honour of being named after Stalin e.g. Moscow almost became Stalinodar

3. Isolation from the West

1	Why isolate from the west?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> He was motivated by security concerns as Cold war tensions heightened He was afraid of Soviets losing their ideological commitment to communism
2	How was the USSR affected?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Around 15% of the 1.8 million returned prisoners of war were sent to the gulags Any contact with foreigners could get a person denounced and arrested In 1947 it became illegal to marry a foreigner Foreign travel for Soviet citizens was tightly controlled Under Zhdanovism, western cultural influences were blocked – no foreign newspapers and only a few approved books were translated into Russian

5. Zhdanovism and the Cultural Purge

1	Who was Zhdanov & what were his aims?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Zhdanov was appointed lead to cultural policy in 1946 He was a strong supporter of socialist realism He aimed to promote Stalinism and criticise American commercialism and inequality
2	How was literature affected?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Writers who didn't follow party lines were forced to publicly apologise Zhdanov purged two key works: Zoshchenko's <i>The Adventures of a Monkey</i> and a collection of poems by Anna Akhmatova The writers were expelled from the Union of Soviet Writers
3	How was music affected?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shostakovich and Prokofiev were both criticized for 'rootless cosmopolitanism' and 'anti-socialist tendencies' They were removed from their teaching posts & Prokofiev's wife was imprisoned
4	How was science affected?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Trofim Lysenko dominated the Academy of Science His influence greatly hampered scientific development New theories or lines of research were suppressed if they somehow contradicted Marxist principles

4. The NKVD under Beria

1	Who was Beria?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Beria was the NKVD chief He was also deputy prime minister and head of the USSR atomic weapons programme
2	How did the NKVD change under him?	<p>The NKVD was strengthened and reorganized into :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The MVD which controlled domestic security and gulags The MGB which controlled counter-intelligence and espionage

6. Key events of High Stalinism

1	The Leningrad Affair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stalin was suspicious of the Party's base in Leningrad – his rivals had previously build power there Stalin was also suspicious of how they glorified their struggle in the siege of Leningrad with minimal help from Stalin By 1948, Zhdanov fell out of favour with Stalin On his death, Stalin launched a purge of the Leningrad party – leading party officials loyal to Zhdanov were arrested, interrogated and executed By 1950, 2000 Party officials were replaced by pro-Stalinists
2	Purges – The Mingrelian Case	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 1951 party officials who were ethnically Mingrelian were targeted in Georgia Stalin was using the accusations to contain Beria's power The accusations were mainly against Beria's followers
3	The Doctors' Plot	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A doctor and police informer accused the doctors who treated Zhdanov of contributing to his death In 1952, Stalin used this complaint to arrest many Jewish doctors for participating in a 'Zionist conspiracy' on behalf of Israel and its ally the USA Thousands of ordinary Jews were caught in the purge, including Molotov and Kalinin's wives 9 doctors were condemned to death but Stalin died before their execution

1. Emergence as a superpower

1	How did the end of the war increase USSR's status?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stalin wanted the Red Army to gain control of as much of Central Europe as possible to create a buffer zone 2. US General Eisenhower slowed the Allies' advance to allow the USSR to win the Race for Berlin – to reduce allied casualties and to prevent confrontation with the USSR
2	How did the USSR become a superpower?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By the end of the war the USSR had increased its territory by controlling the Baltic States and Eastern Poland 2. They were a military-industrial war machine with 7.5 million well-equipped soldiers 3. They were one of the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council 4. They had developed an atomic bomb by August 1949 5. Between 1945 and 48, the USSR consolidated its dominance over East Germany and East Central Europe

2. Formation of a Soviet Bloc

1	Why did Stalin want a Soviet Bloc?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He hoped that this buffer zone of satellite states would help protect the USSR from an invasion by the West
2	How was the Bloc created?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By 1948, most of the Eastern European countries had either been absorbed into the USSR or turned into satellite states 2. 1939 – Eastern Poland was annexed by the USSR under the terms of the Nazi Soviet Pact 3. 1940 – The Baltic States were occupied by the USSR under the terms of the Nazi Soviet Pact 4. 1945 – Eastern Germany became a Soviet zone. Moscow trained communists took political control in 1946 5. 1945 – Communists led by Josip Tito gained control of Yugoslavia 6. 1946 – a provisional government was set up in Lublin (Poland) dominated by pro-Moscow communists 7. 1947 – 'Salami tactics' were used by pro-Soviet governments to control Hungary 8. 1948 – 'Salami tactics; used to control Czechoslovakia

3. Conflict with the USA and the capitalist West

1	How did tension start during WW2?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 1943, the Allies met at Tehran and agreed to demand unconditional surrender – more to stop separate peaces being drawn. 2. In 1944, Stalin and Churchill met and disagreed over the future of Poland 3. In February 1945, the Yalta conference was dominated by conflicting ideas about post-war borders of Germany and Poland 4. In July-August 1945, the Potsdam conference revealed further disagreements. No final peace agreed
2	How did relations break down in 1946?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The USA and Britain were concerned by Soviet expansion and the USSR's building of a buffer zone 2. The Long Telegram, a report from Moscow by American diplomat George Kennan, urged the USA to contain the threat of communism 3. Former Prime Minister Churchill, gave a speech warning of an Iron Curtain falling across Europe and urged for strength in dealing with the USSR
3	How did relations break down in 1947?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By 1947, Western Europe was struggling with economic decline and political instability – there were strong communist parties in Italy and France 2. In March, the Truman Doctrine committed the USA to a policy of containment 3. IN June the Marshall plan, which offered US aid to European economies, was met with hostility by Stalin
4	How did relations break down in 1948-49?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After WW2, Berlin had been split between the Allied powers – the capital was situated in East Germany under Soviet control 2. From June 1948, the Berlin Blockade saw Stalin cut off all road and rail links between Berlin and the Western zones of Germany 3. The allies responded to the Berlin Blockade by initiating the Berlin Airlift, airdropping supplies into West Berlin for 11 months until the Blockade was lifted in May 1949 4. NATO was formed in 1949 – this was an Atlantic alliance for the defence of Europe and was seen as a threat by the USSR 5. The first successful test of the Soviet atomic bomb increased cold war tensions 6. The victory of the Chinese Communist Party in 1950 further worried the Capitalist West

Key word	Definition
Blockade	Sealing off a place to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving
Buffer state	a neutral country between two larger hostile countries, preventing the outbreak of conflict.
Iron Curtain	a figurative barrier separating the Soviet bloc and the West first used by Churchill in 1946
Salami tactics	a divide and conquer process of threats and alliances used to overcome opposition often from within
Satellite state	Countries that retained their national identity but had pro-Soviet governments
Soviet Bloc	The communist nations in Eastern Europe closely allied with the Soviet Union
Superpower	A very powerful and influential nation

4. Stalin's death and legacy

1	What happened after Stalin's death?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following a massive stroke, Stalin died on 5th March 1953 2. Stalin's inner circle delayed calling doctors to help him under fear of further purges coming 3. Soviet citizens grieved Stalin's Death
2	What was Stalin's legacy?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The USSR was a world industrial and nuclear power 2. Stalinism had spread to Europe and Asia 3. Cold War tensions still high 4. Demographic damage to the USSR from terror and famine 5. Long-term underinvestment in agriculture and consumer goods
3	What problems faced Stalin's successors?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There was no clear successor. After a brief return to collective responsibility a tense power struggle culminated in Khrushchev emerging as leader 2. The legacy of terror. Beria was executed – probably a combination of punishment for his crimes and removing him as a threat 3. Khrushchev denounced Stalinism in 1956 and released people from the gulags 4. The problem of improving agriculture and consumer goods production 5. Significant unrest was spreading through East Germany, Poland and Hungary