

GCSE History Homework 2026-2027

Year 11 - Term 1

History Homework Day: Tuesday

Week	Due Date	Revision Focus
1	8 September	(8 marks) Consequences of the Korean War
2	15 September	(4 marks) The Battle of Dien Bien Phu
3	22 September	(4 marks) Civil War in South Vietnam
4	29 September	(4 marks) The Vietcong
5	6 October	(4 marks) A Fear of Communism in the 1950s
6	13 October	(4 marks) President Eisenhower and the Vietnam War

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Due Date:	15 September 2026
Student Number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – The Battle of Dien Bien Phu

- During the Second World War a communist resistance group, known as the Vietminh, fought against the Japanese who had invaded Vietnam. In 1945, the Vietminh declared Vietnam an independent country, with Ho Chi Minh as their President– the French did not accept this. From 1949, China was communist and so helped by providing training, supplies and, equipment to the communist Vietminh.
- To counter this, President Truman sent \$15 million in military aid to the French in 1950, as well as US tanks and planes. Within 4 years, America had spent \$3 million helping the French to fight the communist Vietminh. They set up a non-communist government in South Vietnam.
- This initial period of conflict was known as the First Indochina War – a major turning point in this war was the battle of Dien Bien Phu.
- A small French air base with 10,000 French soldiers was surrounded by 50,000 Vietminh troops, bombarding them with rockets and shells.
- The Vietminh destroyed the runway, trapping the French soldiers. They soon ran out of water and medical supplies – neither America nor Britain would help, and so the French surrendered.
- The battle lasted for 57 days, with 3,000 French soldiers killed and 8,000 wounded. The Vietminh suffered 8,000 deaths and 12,000 wounded soldiers. The French survivors were forced to walk to prison camps.



Source A – A 1960 Chinese painting of Vietminh soldiers victorious at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu.

GCSE-Style Question

Look at Source A (a Chinese painting) Source A supports the Vietminh. How do you know? (4 marks)

One way it supports the Vietminh is

Another way it supports the Vietminh is

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
DESCRIPTION

Due Date:	15 September 2026
Student Number:	
Name:	



Knowledge recall:

Asia:

1. What were the dates of the Korean War?
2. Who was the American president at the start of the Korean War?
3. Who was the American president at the end of the Korean War?
4. Who was the leader of the USSR during the Korean War?

Mind map the
Korean War

Due Date:	22 September 2026
Student Number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – Civil War in South Vietnam

- The Geneva Agreement of 1954 split Vietnam in two. The north was to be ruled by the communist Ho Chi Minh and the south was to be ruled by the anti-communist Ngo Dinh Diem.
- Diem introduced taxation and forced peasants off their land so he could give it to powerful families (nepotism). He imprisoned people who opposed him; despite this, America continued to support him.
- The Geneva Agreement had stated that elections would be held in 1956, but Diem held one in the south in 1955.
- Anyone who opposed the election was arrested – over 100,000 people were sent to prison camps. Diem announced that 98.2% of the country had voted for him.
- There were two main groups who opposed Diem: the National Liberation Front and the Buddhists.

The National Liberation Front

- Opponents of Diem moved to the jungle and formed a resistance group. When a civil war broke out, the NLF received supplies from Ho Chi Minh using the Ho Chi Minh trail.
- The NLF were fighting the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) who were supported by America.

Buddhists

- Diem implemented anti-Buddhist policies, including needing his government’s permission to worship. When Buddhists flew their flag, 9 were killed including 8 children.
- Buddhists joined together and went on hunger strikes and mass rallies. One monk burned himself alive whilst others handed out leaflets against Diem’s government.

Source A – A cartoon by Herbert Lawrence Block. He was a well known American cartoonist who was openly critical of the Diem regime in South Vietnam.



GCSE-Style Question

Study Source A – A cartoon by Herbert Lawrence Block. Source A is critical of Diem’s government.

How do you know? (4 marks)

One way the source is critical is

Another way the source is critical is

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
DESCRIPTION

Due Date:	22 September 2026
Student Number:	
Name:	



Knowledge recall:

USA:

1. Give two reasons why there was a boom in the 1920s.
2. Which law introduced prohibition?
3. Name the style of music popular in the 1920s and a popular music artist.
4. Name a law that placed restrictions on immigrants in the 1920s.

Mind map
1920's USA

Due Date:	29 September 2026
Student Number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – The Vietcong

- When it became clear Diem would not hold elections to reunify Vietnam, many tried to force him into this, or drive him out.
- Hundreds of Diem's government officials were murdered by these resistance groups in the south— Diem sent people in the jungle to hunt them down.
- Ho Chi Minh (the leader in North Vietnam) agreed to supply and support these resistance groups— the various groups joined together in 1960 and became known as the National Liberation Front. The South Vietnamese army and US advisors referred to the NLF as the Vietcong (short for Vietnamese Communist.)
- The Vietcong contained some communists but also some nationalists (people who just wanted their country back). They appealed to both peasants and the middle-class.
- The Vietcong had strict rules that they must act respectfully towards the peasants; **the peasants therefore hide, and fed the Vietcong in return.**
- The Vietcong used guerrilla tactics— they fought in units of 3 – 10 and did not wear uniforms, so they could blend in with villagers.
- The Vietcong would attack only if they outnumbered the enemy, mostly at night, and always by surprise.
- Supplies for the Vietcong came down the Ho Chi Minh trail, which went through the jungle and villages.
- The Vietcong knew these remote jungle areas well, which gave them a huge advantage over their enemy.

The aims of the Vietcong:

- Replace Diem
- Unify Vietnam

GCSE-Style Question

Write an account of how the Vietcong gained the support of the Vietnamese people. (8 marks)

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10 MINS



2
PARAGRAPHS



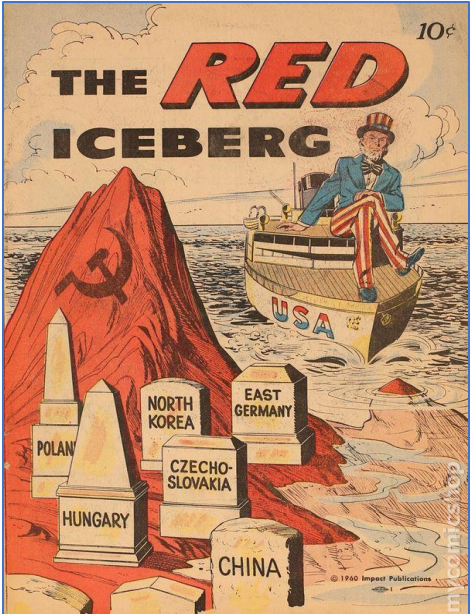
SKILL FOCUS:
EXPLANATION

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Due Date:	6 October 2026
Student Number:	
Name:	

Key Knowledge – A Fear of Communism in the 1950s

- After the Second World War, communist governments (with the support / influence of the USSR) had taken over many Eastern European countries. The USA was committed to stopping this.
- North Korea had become a communist country after the Second World War and in 1949, China also became a communist country.
- President Eisenhower adopted the phrase ‘Domino Theory’ when talking about South Vietnam – he was sure it would fall to communism as well.
- This sparked a fear of communism in the USA – they were paranoid that Soviet spies were working in the US government. HUAC was set up to investigate these people.
- HUAC’s investigations led to some filmmakers being accused of creating communist propaganda.
- This wave of paranoia became known as the Red Scare and increased support for American action against communism in the Vietnam War.
- In 1950, Senator McCarthy alleged he had the names of over 200 communists working for the American government – these trials, investigations and hearings became known as McCarthyism.
- When he accused 45 army officers of being communists, he lost support.



Source A – A comic book cover, 1960, published for American Catholic students.

GCSE-Style Question

Source A shows that the USA was worried about the spread of communism.
How do you know? (4 marks)

One way

Another way

5 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
DESCRIPTION

6 October 2026

Complete the following boxes with key facts using the SPEND framework – write in full sentences.

The division of Korea	
The Cold War	
The Truman Doctrine	

S - statistics

P - places

E - events

N – names

D – dates

[illegible]