

GCSE History Homework 2026-7

Year 11 - Term 2

History Homework Day: Tuesday

Week	Due Date	Revision Focus
1	3 November 2026	(4 marks) The Domino theory
2	10 November 2026	(8 marks) President Kennedy and the Vietnam War
3	17 November 2026	(6 marks) President Johnson and the Vietnam War
4	24 November 2026	(8 marks) Why was the Gulf of Tonkin important?
5	1 December 2026	(8 marks) Vietcong Tactics
6	8 December 2026	(8 marks) US Tactics
7	15 December 2026	(8 marks) The Tet Offensive

	History Homework sheet 2
Due Date:	3 November
Student Number:	
Name:	



Use the marking grid to self-assess your homework from sheet 1.

Q1		Source A shows that the USA was worried about the spread of communism abroad. How do you know?		Mark (out of 4)	
WWW		EBI			
	L1: You have identified points from the source and supported them with some simple factual knowledge.		L1: Pick out points from the source which link to US involvement in Asia.		
	L2: You have carried out a simple analysis of the source, supported by factual knowledge.		L2: Support your points with specific factual knowledge.		

Knowledge recall

What were the dates of the Korean War?

Who was the American president at the start of the Korean War?

Who was the American president at the end of the Korean War?

Who was the leader of the USSR during the Korean War?

Who was the President in 1954 who first used the term ‘the Domino Theory?’

Why is 1954 a significant date?

Which countries were communist by 1954?

Due Date:	10 November
Student Number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – President Kennedy and the Vietnam War

Kennedy did not want to have US soldiers fighting in Vietnam. He wanted US army advisers to train the ARVN so they could stop the spread of communism.

Kennedy supported the **Strategic Hamlet Programme** in Vietnam. The peasants were moved away from their villages to ‘strategic hamlets’, often many miles away from their village and fields. The ‘hamlets’ were surrounded by barbed wire and ditches. However, the programme backfired. By the summer of 1963 over two thirds of the population had been moved – and most were angry as a result. Many turned to the Vietcong.

Kennedy increased the number of **military experts** in Vietnam to around 16,000; they trained the ARVN (South Vietnamese army).

He approved a **coup** in South Vietnam to remove Diem.

He increased financial aid to South Vietnam to help the ARVN . ARVN troop numbers grew from 150,000 to 170,000 by the end of 1961.

He sent 300 US helicopter pilots to transport ARVN soldiers; the pilots were given strict instructions not to fight, but this was an order that was difficult to obey when they were shot at by Vietcong troops.

1954 – he sent a team of CIA intelligence agents to South Vietnam’s largest city, Saigon, to gather information for the US government.

He kept the US involvement in Vietnam a secret from the US press, as he was worried about public opinion.

GCSE-Style Question

Write an account of how US involvement in Vietnam developed under President Kennedy (8 marks)

One way

10 MINS



2
PARAGRAPHS



SKILL FOCUS:
EXPLANATION

[illegible]

Due Date:	10 November Sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Use the marking grid to self-assess your homework from sheet 1.

Write an account of how US involvement in Vietnam developed under President Kennedy(8)		Mark	
WWW		EBI	
	L1: You have identified consequences of the event.		L1: You must identify consequences._
	L2: You have started to describe consequences including specific evidence.		L2: You must describe consequences. Use more specific evidence.
	L3: You have explained a developed consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.		L3: Provide an explanation of one consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.
	L4: You have made clear chronological links between two explained consequences.		L4: Show how two consequences link together and structure your answer in a chronological manner.

Knowledge recall

1. What were the dates of the Korean War?
2. Who was the leader of North Korea?
3. Who was the leader of South Korea?
4. Who were the 5 permanent members states of the UN security council?
5. Why were China removed from this?
6. What date did North Korea invade South Korea?
7. What did the UN do 2 days later?

Due Date:	17 November
Student Number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – President Johnson and the Vietnam War

President Johnson, like Kennedy, agreed with Eisenhower’s Domino Theory. He was deeply worried about the spread of communism in Asia. Like Kennedy he was reluctant to commit combat troops. Johnson was also hoping to win the next election in the US and he hoped a more peaceful approach to the situation in Vietnam would help him win the election. However, Johnson’s advisers were keen for him to become more involved in Vietnam. They could see that the ARVN would not be strong enough to fight the Vietcong on their own, but they were certain that if North Vietnam was attacked then Ho Chi Minh and his government would withdraw their support for the Vietcong. So, Johnson decided to support an increased US presence in Vietnam and approved Operation Plan 34A in August 1964. Johnson would not send US troops to fight but would try to help the South Vietnamese. Operation 34A involved sending South Vietnamese soldiers into North Vietnam and US naval ships into North Vietnamese waters in the Gulf of Tonkin. It was clear to many that US involvement in Vietnam was starting to increase.

“In Asia we face an ambitious and aggressive China, but we have the will and we have the strength to help our Asian friends resist that ambition. But we are not about to send American boys 9 or 10,000 miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves”.

Source A: From a speech Johnson made during his campaign for presidency, October 1964.

GCSE-Style Question

How useful is source A to a historian studying US involvement in Vietnam before 1965?

Source A is useful because

I know

10 MINS



1 PARAGRAPH



SKILL FOCUS:
ANALYSIS

Due Date:	17 November Sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Use the marking grid to self-assess your homework from sheet 1.

Q2	How useful is source A to a historian studying US involvement in Vietnam before 1965?		Mark (out of 12)
WWW		EBI	
	L1: You have identified basic features from the source related to US involvement before 1965		L1: Pick out points from the source about the US involvement in Vietnam before 1965
	L2: You have begun to explain how the source is useful based on the content and/or provenance.		L2: Explain how the source is useful considering the content and/or provenance.
	L3: You have analysed the source, based on the content and/or provenance. You have supported your explanation with contextual knowledge.		L3: Analyse the source, using the content and/or provenance. Support your explanations with contextual knowledge.
	L4: You have evaluated the source based on the content and provenance. You recognise limitations.		L4: Evaluate the relationship using the content and provenance. Consider the limitations of the source.

Knowledge recall

1. Who did the UN refuse to let join the Security Council in 1950?

2. Who was the US President at the time?

3. Who did he send to command the UN troops in Korea?

4. How many member states sent troops to fight?

5. What percentage of the armed forces did the US provide?

6. Where did the UN land on 15 September 1950?

7. By what month had North Korean troops been driven out of South Korea?

8. What parallel divided North and South Korea?

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Due Date:	24 November sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Use the marking grid to self-assess your homework from sheet 1.

Write an account of how events in Vietnam and the Gulf of Tonkin led to greater US involvement in Vietnam by 1965.		Mark	
WWW		EBI	
	L1: You have identified consequences of the event.		L1: You must identify consequences_
	L2: You have started to describe consequences including specific evidence.		L2: You must describe consequences. Use more specific evidence.
	L3: You have explained a developed consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.		L3: Provide an explanation of one consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.
	L4: You have made clear chronological links between two explained consequences.		L4: Show how two consequences link together and structure your answer in a chronological manner.

Knowledge recall

- The Korean War had become a stalemate by 1951 – what does this mean?
- How did the Soviet's hide their involvement in the conflict?
- Who replaced Truman as President in 1952?
- Who died in March 1953?
- What was decided about North and South Korea?
- Where was the border between the two?
- What was also placed between the two countries?

Due Date:	1 December
Student Number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge – Vietcong tactics

The Vietcong used guerrilla warfare to try to defeat the US army and the South Vietnamese army (ARVN). They were facing one of the biggest, strongest and well-equipped armies in the world. They couldn't compete with technology but they did know the jungles of Vietnam and could easily hide among the local villages. Guerrilla fighters do not wear uniforms they are very hard to tell apart from non-fighting civilians. They have no base camp or headquarters. They work in small well-armed groups and they follow basic principles; retreat when your enemy attacks, attack when your enemy retreats, and raid enemy camps whenever you can.

The Ho Chi Minh trail was a series of paths, tracks and roads. It made up a vital supply route for the North Vietnamese government to keep the Vietcong in South Vietnam supplied with weapons, food and soldiers. The trail ran directly through thick jungle so the Americans struggled to find it. The Ho Chi Minh Trail was an advanced network of 15,000 kilometres that undoubtedly helped the Vietcong outsmart the Americans. The use of guerrilla tactics meant they had to stay close to the Americans and ambush them. This was known as 'hanging on the belts' as they were always so close.

The Vietcong quickly learned that anything visible from the air soon became a target-so they went underground to avoid detection. Vietcong bases were built in extensive underground bunkers. These were complex tunnel systems that stretched for over 300 kilometres under the jungles of Vietnam. They contained workshops, hospitals, storehouses, conference rooms and kitchens. To prevent the US soldiers who found the tunnels gaining access they were carefully booby-trapped.

The US found it hard to fight against the Vietcong and over ten per cent of US deaths were down to the booby-traps created by the Vietcong. The most infamous of these traps the punji trap- involved the use of sharpened bamboo sticks that were hidden in shallow holes covered with leaves. They could easily go through the foot of an army boot and into the foot. The Vietcong would go one step further and cover the stick in animal blood or human excrement to cause an infection when it went through the skin.

The Vietcong tactics were useful for taking the Americans by surprise. These attacks made the Americans nervous and frustrated. They would also use captured US weapons against the American soldiers. However, a lot civilians were killed during the conflict because they were mistaken for Vietcong fighters. Furthermore the Vietcong was never able to fully defeat the US using guerrilla tactics.

GCSE-Style Question

Write an account of why the US soldiers found it so difficult to defeat the Vietcong in Vietnam. (8 marks)

10 MINS



2
PARAGRAPHS



SKILL FOCUS:
EXPLANATION

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Due Date:	1 December sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	

Use the marking grid to self-assess your homework from sheet 1.

Write an account of why the US soldiers found it so difficult to defeat the Vietcong in Vietnam. (8 marks)		Mark	
WWW		EBI	
	L1: You have identified consequences of the event.		L1: You must identify consequences.
	L2: You have started to describe consequences including specific evidence.		L2: You must describe consequences. Use more specific evidence.
	L3: You have explained a developed consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.		L3: Provide an explanation of one consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.
	L4: You have made clear chronological links between two explained consequences.		L4: Show how two consequences link together and structure your answer in a chronological manner.

Knowledge recall

1. How was the role of the UN strengthened by the Korean War?
2. What did the USSR fail to do?
3. What did the UN fail to do?
4. Some argued that the UN was a puppet of the US – what did this mean?
5. Did the Korean War resolve the tension between the USA and USSR? Explain

Due Date:	8 December
Student Number:	
Name:	



Key Knowledge –US tactics

The USA had one of the most powerful, well equipped and well trained armies in the world. The Vietcong, on the other hand, was made up of peasant farmers. However, the US army soon realised that their weapons and money were no match for the guerrilla tactics of the Vietcong. When the conflict began, the soldiers that went to Vietnam were experienced. However, as the war continued increasing numbers of younger and more inexperienced soldiers were sent to fight. Before long the average age of a US soldier in Vietnam was 19. During the Second World War ordinary US troops had started to refer to themselves as ‘GIs’. The nickname stuck and US troops in the Vietnam War became known as GI’s.

In terms of fighting the war the Americans tried to use their superior technology and firepower to their advantage. Bases were built all along the coasts and borders of South Vietnam, which were used to launch ‘search and destroy’ missions in the countryside. The idea was that the Americans would search villages for Vietcong soldiers, and if they found any they would destroy the village as a warning to the South Vietnamese who support the Vietcong. These missions became known as ‘zippo’ raids after the cigarette lighter used to set fire to the thatched roofs in the village houses.

It soon became clear that the US armed forces were not suited to the kind of guerrilla warfare that the Vietcong had perfected. The Vietcong avoided open combat at all costs, denying the Americans the opportunity to use their heavy weapons and air support. It was impossible to tell the difference between an enemy soldier and an innocent civilian. As a result, GIs often killed civilians as well as soldiers.

In February 1965 the USA launched Operation Rolling Thunder. For the next three years giant B52 bombers poured millions of tonnes of high explosive bombs onto North Vietnamese cities, army bases and supply roads. In all, the USA dropped more bombs on Vietnam than had been previously dropped in the whole of human history. New **cluster bombs** sometimes called ‘mother bombs’ or ‘pineapple bombs’, were developed. They exploded in the air and released 600 smaller bombs that exploded horizontally, damaging anything or anyone they hit.

The bombing campaigns did not defeat the Vietcong. They reduced the Vietcong’s efficiency and disrupted supply routes, but the Vietcong continued to launch attacks on US troops. So the Americans began to target supply routes and the tunnel systems in another way-they began to use chemical weapons most infamously Agent Orange and napalm.

Agent Orange was a highly toxic weed killer that was used to destroy the jungle so the Americans could see Vietcong trails, tunnel entrances and bases from the air. This chemical caused cancer, and pregnant women were likely to give birth to children with abnormalities.

Napalm was a mixture of a gelling agent (a sticky substance) and petrol. It would burn through anything it landed on so it was very effective in destroying thick jungle. However, it would also burn through skin, muscle and bone and caused terrible injuries to civilians.

10 MINS



2

PARAGRAPHS



SKILL FOCUS:
EXPLANATION

GCSE-Style Question

Write an account of the experiences of young men drafted to fight in Vietnam. (8 marks)

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the page is completely blank except for the lines themselves.

Due Date:	8 December sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	



Use the marking grid to self-assess your homework from sheet 1.

Write an account of the experiences of young men drafted to fight in Vietnam. (8 marks)		Mark	
WWW		EBI	
	L1: You have identified consequences of the event.		L1: You must identify consequences_
	L2: You have started to describe consequences including specific evidence.		L2: You must describe consequences. Use more specific evidence.
	L3: You have explained a developed consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.		L3: Provide an explanation of one consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.
	L4: You have made clear chronological links between two explained consequences.		L4: Show how two consequences link together and structure your answer in a chronological manner.

Mind map US
Tactics

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a thin black border around the edges.

Due Date:	15 December sheet 2
Student Number:	
Name:	

Use the marking grid to self-assess your homework from sheet 1.

Write an account of how the Tet Offensive, 1968, had consequences for those involved in the Vietnam War. (8 marks)		Mark	
WWW		EBI	
	L1: You have identified consequences of the event.		L1: You must identify consequences.
	L2: You have started to describe consequences including specific evidence.		L2: You must describe consequences. Use more specific evidence.
	L3: You have explained a developed consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.		L3: Provide an explanation of one consequence, supported by specific historical evidence.
	L4: You have made clear chronological links between two explained consequences.		L4: Show how two consequences link together and structure your answer in a chronological manner.

Mind map the
Tet Offensive