

## Option D: The Cold War 1945–1991

### Content Focus

Students investigate key features in the history of the Cold War 1945–1991. The Historical concepts and skills content is to be integrated as appropriate.

#### Key features

- origins and developments of the Cold War
- influence of the ideologies of communism and capitalism on the Cold War
- origins and nature of détente, and its impact on the Cold War
- changing policies, strategies and responses to the Cold War
- impact of crises on changing superpower relations
- the arms race and disarmament
- reasons for the end of the Cold War

### Content

Students investigate:

#### Survey

- Origins of the Cold War 1945–1953, including:
  - 1945 conferences and the emergence of the superpowers 🌐
  - emerging differences between the superpowers (ACHMH187) 🌐
  - the Truman Doctrine and its consequences (ACHMH187, ACHMH192) 🏛️
  - impact of the early crises: the Berlin blockade and airlift, China becoming communist in 1949 and the Korean War (ACHMH187) 🌐 ⚙️ 🏛️ 🌐

#### Focus of study

- Development of the Cold War to 1968, including:
  - policy of containment, domino theory and the emergence of peaceful coexistence 🌐
  - superpower rivalry: the arms race and space race (ACHMH188) 🌐
  - the nature and impact of crises: Berlin Wall 1961, Cuba 1962, Czechoslovakia 1968 (ACHMH188) 🏛️ 🌐
- Détente, including:
  - economic and political reasons for détente (ACHMH188) 🏛️ 🌐
  - geopolitical developments: Vietnam, Sino-Soviet split, the Middle East (ACHMH188) 🌐 🏛️
  - features and consequences of détente (ACHMH188) ⚙️ 🏛️
- Renewal and end of the Cold War, including:
  - Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and its impacts ⚙️ 🏛️ 🌐
  - US attitudes and policies under Reagan (ACHMH192) ⚙️ 🏛️ 🌐
  - Soviet attitudes and policies under Gorbachev (ACHMH192) ⚙️ 🏛️ 🌐
  - disarmament agreements 1978–1991 (ACHMH188) 🏛️
  - collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the USSR (ACHMH190) 🌐