

Paper 3 Vietnam, 1954 - 75 Glossary

Rationale: The USA: conflict at home and abroad is your modern depth study and will be examined on Paper 3. The study contains two topics: civil rights in the USA and the Vietnam War. Paper 3 is the skills based paper.

Key concept		Key vocabulary	
1. Inference	Working out things from a historical source that are not explicitly stated.	25. Communism	A system where all property and business is owned by the government.
1. Useful	Whether a historical source is helpful for learning about a topic.	26. Capitalism	A system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit.
2. Interpretation	One view or opinion of an event or person.	27. Domino Theory	The theory that if any South-East Asian country became Communist then neighbouring countries would then fall like a set of dominoes to Communism.
Key people/groups		28. Containment	The US aim of stopping the spread of communism.
3. Ho Chi Minh	Leader of the Vietminh and North Vietnam	29. Limited war	The idea of helping South Vietnam by sending money and advisors but not sending US troops to fight.
4. The Vietminh	A group who wanted an independent communist Vietnam	30. ARVN	The South Vietnamese army
5. Bao Dai	Led South Vietnam after WW2; supported by the French	31. Strategic hamlet	Fortified villages, surrounded by barbed wire and ARVN guards, with facilities such as schools and clinics. South Vietnamese peasants were moved to these villages.
6. Ngo Dinh Diem	Led South Vietnam from 1954; supported by the USA	32. Guerrilla warfare	The VC ambushed American or South Vietnamese patrols and would set booby traps or plant bombs. This was to avoid formal battles.
7. President Eisenhower	Led US involvement in Vietnam from 1954 - 61	33. Cu Chi tunnels	Networks of tunnels below ground in the countryside in which the VC lived and hid from US troops.
8. President Kennedy	Led US involvement in Vietnam from 1961 - 63	34. Ho Chi Minh Trail	The trail used to send men and weapons from North Vietnam to South Vietnam.
9. President Johnson	Led US involvement in Vietnam from 1963 - 69, responsible for sending US troops to Vietnam.	35. Strategic bombing	The bombing of specific military and industrial targets.
10. President Nixon,	Led US involvement in Vietnam from 1969 - 74, responsible for the US withdrawal from Vietnam.	36. Search and destroy	US troops would destroy entire villages by burning them to the ground to root out Vietcong and destroy their weapons
11. The Vietcong	A group who fought back against Diem and the ARVN	37. Napalm	This stuck to the skin and, because it burns at 800 degrees centigrade, would burn through the skin all the way to the bone.
12. The National Liberation Front	Set up by the Vietcong and other groups to overthrow Diem.	38. Agent Orange	A defoliant used to destroy the jungle in Vietnam.
13. Hard Hats	A group who supported the war, they were motivated by patriotism.	39. Agent Blue	A herbicide used to destroy crops
Key events (by year)		40. Nixon Doctrine	The USA would help any ally against a nuclear threat and would provide aid and training against non-nuclear threats, but the country under threat had to provide its own troops
14. 1954	Battle of Dien Bien Phu Geneva Accords	41. Madman Theory	An attempt to convince the North Vietnamese that Nixon was so worried about communism, that he would use a nuclear weapon if he needed to
15. 1960	National Liberation Front is set up	42. Vietnamisation	Vietnamese soldiers would be trained and equipped to take the place of U.S. troops
16. 1962	Start of the strategic hamlet program Operation Ranch Hand starts	43. The draft	Men between the age of 18 and 26 were conscripted into the army for one year.
17. 1963	Diem is overthrown	44. Draft dodgers	Men who tried to avoid having to fight in Vietnam.
18. 1964	Gulf of Tonkin incident Gulf of Tonkin Resolution	45. Patriotism	A love of, and loyalty to, your country.
19. 1965	Operation Rolling Thunder	46. Silent majority	Americans who did not participate in the anti-war demonstrations and silently supported the war.
20. 1968	The Tet Offensive The My Lai Massacre		
21. 1970	The Kent State shooting Invasion of Cambodia		
22. 1971	Invasion of Laos		
23. 1972	Bombing of North Vietnam (Operation Linebacker)		
24. 1973	US withdrawal from Vietnam		