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In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

**Icons**
- **WHAT** questions cover the key events and themes.
- **WHO** questions cover the key people involved.
- **WHEN** questions cover the timings of key events.
- **WHERE** questions cover the locations of key moments.
- **WHY** questions cover the reasons behind key events.
- **HOW** questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.
- **IMPORTANCE** questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.
- **DECISIONS** questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

**Highlighted words**
*Abdicate* - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 15.

**Page references**
*Tudor (p.7)* - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.
The Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 75 is a modern investigation and breadth study that details the key events and people involved in the Vietnam Conflict. It covers the military conflict in Vietnam, the involvement of the USA, and the impact of global political conflicts. The course also investigates the French occupation and the impact of the conflict. You will focus on crucial events and study the different social, cultural, political and economic changes that occurred.

**Purpose**

This study enables you to understand the complexities and challenges of democracy versus communism, of war versus peace and of protest versus nationalism. You will investigate themes such as democracy, communism, dictatorship, government, propaganda, censorship, tactics, strategies and politics. This course will enable you to develop the historical skills of causation and consequence, and encourage you to analyse and evaluate contemporary sources as well as interpretations of the time period.

**Topics**

The Vietnam Conflict, 1945 - 75 is split into 5 key topics:

- **In Topic 1, The Vietnamese Struggle against France for independence, 1945 - 54**, you will study the beginnings of the Vietnam conflict. This includes the tactics of General Giap, the search for a diplomatic solution and the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu.
- **In Topic 2, US policy and intervention in the Vietnamese War, 1954 - 64**, you will examine life in North and South Vietnam, as well as Ho Chi Minh’s attempts to unite Vietnam and the Gulf of Tonkin incidents.
- **In Topic 3, Confrontation in the Vietnam War**, you will focus on the escalation in 1964 - 68, how the USA took the lead in the war, and the roles of McNamara, General Westmoreland and President Johnson.
- **In Topic 4, you will focus on President Nixon and President Ford’s policies with regards to the Vietnam War. This will include the failure of the peace talks, how the war extended into Cambodia and Laos, and how it linked to Vietnamisation.**
- **In Topic 5, the impact of the conflict on civilians in Vietnam and attitudes in the USA**, you will investigate the impact on civilians in Vietnam and the USA. You will also study the tactics of guerrilla warfare, the battle for ‘hearts and minds’, the Phoenix Program and bombing during the Vietnam War.

**Key Individuals**

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- Ho Chi Minh.
- General Giap.
- Ngo Dinh Diem.
- President Truman.
- President Kennedy.
- President Eisenhower.
- President Johnson.
- President Nixon.
- President Ford.
- Henry Kissinger.

**Key Events**

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- French defeat at Dien Bien Phu.
- Vietnam split at the 17th parallel.
- France leaving Vietnam.
- Gulf of Tonkin incidents.
- Tet Offensive.
- My Lai Massacre.
- Paris Peace Accords.
- The draft.
- Vietnamisation.
US bombing of Cambodia and Laos.
Kent State Incident.
Pentagon Papers published.
The Fall of Saigon.

Assessment
The Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 75 forms part of paper 2 where you have a total of 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete. You should spend 45 minutes on this section of the paper. There will be 1 exam question on The Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 75. The question will be broken down into 4 sections; a, b, c(i) and c(ii). You will answer a, b and either c(i) or c(ii).

Question a is worth 6 marks. This question will require you to examine an extract and assesses your ability to analyse and evaluate a historical interpretation. You will need to identify the author’s opinion or perspective by analysing the language the author uses and what they have chosen to comment on. You will explain how valid the overall impression is by using your own knowledge to evaluate that impression.

Question b is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to explain two effects of an event on something else by using your contextual knowledge and looking at the consequences. You will need to identify two effects and then demonstrate how the event led to the effect you have identified.

Question c(i) and c(ii) are worth 16 marks. This question will require you to construct an argument to support and challenge an interpretation stated in the question. You will be given two pieces of information to help jog your memory but you must use information of your own. You will have the opportunity to show your ability to explain and analyse historical events using 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference.
THIS IS A SAMPLE.
REVISION SECTION REMOVED.
Who controlled Vietnam before the Second World War?
France fully took over Indochina in the late 19th century. France lost control to the Japanese during the Second World War, but wanted to regain it in 1945.

Who supported French rule in Vietnam?
French rule in Vietnam was supported by the USA, under President Truman, after March 1945. They provided around $500 million a year in support.

Why did the USA support French rule in Vietnam?
The US wanted to prevent communism spreading in Asia, particularly after the fall of China to communism in 1949.

Who challenged French rule in Vietnam?
French rule in Vietnam was challenged by the Vietminh, a Vietnamese resistance movement founded to fight the Japanese during the Second World War. It was led by the communist Ho Chi Minh.

How was French rule in Vietnam defeated?
The Vietminh used guerrilla warfare to defeat the French.

What were the reasons for the defeat of French rule in Vietnam?
There were 6 main reasons why the French were defeated in Vietnam:

- The Vietminh were able to use their excellent geographical knowledge to their advantage, using it to launch surprise attacks on the French.
- The Vietminh were aided by China and the USSR, who sent troops and supplies.
- Villagers supported the Vietminh, by spying and deploying supplies.
- The Vietminh used guerrilla warfare.
- The French troops did not care about regaining control of Vietnam. France also underestimated the Vietminh.
- There was limited assistance from the US.

When did the French rule end in Vietnam?
The French left Vietnam in July 1956.

DID YOU KNOW?
France gained control over North Vietnam following its victory over China in 1885.
GENERAL GIAP

General Giap built a highly disciplined communist force that was to eventually force the US from Vietnam.

Who was General Giap?
A Vietnamese Communist and eventual general of the North Vietnam Army.

What were General Giap’s tactics?
He used 2 main tactics:
- Guerilla warfare.
- Waves of troops in huge numbers.

DID YOU KNOW?
Giap had no direct military training and was a history teacher. He said his two greatest influences were T E Lawrence and Napoleon.

DIEN BIEN PHU, 1954

‘Underestimation of nonconventional units or a guerrilla enemy by regular forces is a cardinal military sin.’
Howard R Simpson, historian

What was Dien Bien Phu?
Dien Bien Phu was a decisive battle between French and North Vietnamese troops in 1954.

When did Dien Bien Phu take place?
The Battle of Dien Bien Phu was fought for 57 days between 13th March and 7th May, 1954.

Who was involved at Dien Bien Phu?
France fought the Battle of Dien Bien Phu against North Vietnam and the Vietminh.

What was the result of Dien Bien Phu?
There were 5 significant results of Dien Bien Phu.
- France lost the battle.
- Over 3,000 French soldiers were killed and 8,000 were wounded.
- The Vietminh lost 8,000 troops and a further 12,000 were wounded.
- It was a massive humiliation for the French.
- The remaining French soldiers were made to march to prisons located far away, with many dying during the journey.

Why did Dien Bien Phu happen?
The French felt one last large battle would defeat the communists.
How were the French defeated at Dien Bien Phu?

The French were defeated for 6 main reasons:

- The 10,000 French soldiers defended an airfield known as Dien Bien Phu, which was in a valley.
- The French were surrounded and had their supplies cut off by 50,000 Vietminh soldiers.
- The Vietnamese were willing to use suicide bombers.
- The Vietnamese managed to get artillery to the top of the surrounding hills and bombarded Dien Bien Phu.
- They launched attacks with vast numbers of men and were willing to take heavy casualties.
- The French ran out of essential supplies like water and medicines. Although they asked for help, neither the USA nor Britain would come to their aid. The French surrendered on 7th May, 1954.

Why did the French surrender at Dien Bien Phu?

The French surrendered at Dien Bien Phu for 3 key reasons:

- They had been defeated in the battle.
- They could not secure support from outside parties such as Britain and the USA.
- The French parliament voted 471 to 14 in support of ending the war and withdrawing from French Indochina.

What were the consequences of Dien Bien Phu?

The defeat at Dien Bien Phu had 2 important consequences.

- It ended France's 8-year war with the Vietminh.
- Over 400,000 soldiers and civilians lost their lives in the First Indochina War.
A

Air strike - an attack by aircraft, typically a bombing.

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Ammunition - collective term given to bullets and shells.

Amputate, Amputation - to surgically remove a limb from someone's body.

Artillery - large guns used in warfare.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

Assassination - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

Attrition - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.

B

Booby traps - seemingly harmless devices concealing something that will kill, harm or surprise. Especially in warfare, booby traps were often set off by a wire and contained explosives.

Bribe, Bribery, Bribes - to dishonestly persuade someone to do something for you in return for money or other inducements.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

Ceasefire - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.

Censorship - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.

Civil rights - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Claim - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

Communism - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.

Communist - a believer in communism.

Conference - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

Conscription - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

Containment - meaning to keep something under control or within limits, it often refers to the American idea of stopping the spread of communism.

Corrupt - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

D

Deadlock - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Defect - the act of defection; to leave your country or cause for another.

Demilitarised - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.

Democracy - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

Deploy - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.

Discriminate, Discrimination - to treat a person or group of people differently and in an unfair way.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Embassy - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

F

Fatalities, Fatality - Deaths.

Foreign policy - a government’s strategy for dealing with other nations.

G

Guerrilla tactics, Guerrilla warfare - a way of fighting that typically involves hit-and-run style tactics.

Guerrillas - groups of small, independent fighters usually involved in a war against larger, regular military forces.

H

Harvest - the process of gathering and collecting crops.
Hippies - Groups of Americans who ‘dropped out’ of traditional life. Most did not go to college or work and travelled around the country, organising music festivals and protests against the Vietnam war and campaigning for world peace.

Impeach, Impeachment - to charge someone, usually a high-ranking government official, with treason or a crime against the state.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

International relations - the relationships between different countries.

Left wing - used to describe political groups or individuals with beliefs that are usually centered around socialism and the idea of reform.

Legislation - a term for laws when they are considered collectively, for example housing legislation.

Legitimacy, Legitimate - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

Limb - an arm or leg.

Mandate - authority to carry out a policy.

Massacre - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

Mercenary - someone who takes action in order to earn money, rather than out of principle.

Middle class - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Militia - an army created from the general population.

Mine - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Monk - a member of a religious community, often living a simple life of poverty, chastity and work.

Morale - general mood of a group of people.

Morals - a person’s set of rules about what they consider right and wrong, used to guide their actions and behaviour.

Napalm - a petrol based chemical, used to devastating effect in conflict as it sticks to skin and causes terrible burns.

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

POW, Prisoner of war, Prisoners of war - somebody who has been captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces.

Pacification - Making something, or someone, peaceful.

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Peasant - a poor farmer.

Persecution - hostility towards or harassment of someone, usually due to their race, religion or political beliefs.

Phonetic Alphabet - A series of code words to indicate different letters of the alphabet, E.G 'Alpha' to mean 'A'.

Poll - a vote or survey.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Prosecute - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

Psychological - referring to a person’s mental or emotional state.

Radical, Radicalism - people who want complete or extensive change, usually politically or socially.

Raid - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Refugee, Refugees - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

Restoration - to return something to its former owner, place or condition; this includes returning a monarch to the throne or a head of state to government.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Rig, Rigged - politically, to interfere in or fix an election to
determine the winner.

Right wing - a political view with beliefs centred around nationalism and a desire for an authoritarian government opposed to communism.

Sanctions - actions taken against states who break international laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

Scandal, Scandalous - something that angers or shocks people because rules or accepted standards of behaviour have been broken.

Search and destroy, Seek and destroy - a tactic used by the US in Vietnam. Helicopters brought in soldiers who searched out the enemy in a specific area, such as a village, destroyed them, and then left.

Siege - action by enemy forces to surround a place or building, cutting off access and supplies, with the aim of either destroying it, gaining entry, or starving the inhabitants out.

Soviet - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

Stalemate - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

Submission, Submit - a formal surrender and acceptance of a new authority.

Superior - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Terrain - a stretch of land and usually used to refer to its physical features, eg mountainous, jungle etc.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

Veteran, Veterans - an ex-soldier.
Ap Bac, Battle of - 0
Attrition - 0

Booby traps, Vietcong - 0

Cambodia, invasion 1970 - 0
Chemical weapons - 0
Cost of the Vietnam War - 0
Cronkite, Walter - 0

Diem, President - 0
Diem, overthrow - 0
Dien Bien Phu, Battle of - 13
Domino Theory - 0
Draft system - 0

Easter Offensive, North Vietnam - 0
Easter Offensive, US - 0

Fall of Saigon - 0
French occupation of Vietnam - 12

General Giap - 13
Geneva Accords - 0
Guerrilla warfare, Vietcong - 0
Gulf of Tonkin Incident, first - 0
Gulf of Tonkin Incident, second - 0
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution - 0

Hard Hats - 0
Ho Chi Minh - 0
Ho Chi Minh Trail - 0
Hue, Battle of - 0

Kent State Protest - 0
Khe Sanh, Siege of - 0
Kissinger, Henry - 0

Laos, invasion 1971 - 0

Media war, Vietnam - 0
My Lai Massacre - 0

Nixon Doctrine - 0
Nixon, Richard - 0
North Vietnam, Easter Offensive - 0

Operation Rolling Thunder - 0

Paris Peace Accords - 0
Peace negotiations, Vietnam War - 0
Phoenix Program - 0
Political opposition to Vietnam War - 0
President Diem - 0
President Nixon - 0

Reasons for USA's failure in Vietnam - 0

Saigon, Fall of - 0
Search and destroy - 0
Silent Majority - 0
Strategic Hamlet programme - 0
Student Movement - 0
Support for Vietnam War - 0

TV during Vietnam War - 0
Tactics, USA - 0
Tactics, Vietcong - 0
Tet Offensive - 0
Tonkin, Gulf of - 0

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US

Political opposition to Vietnam War - 0
Support for Vietnam War - 0
The Silent Majority - 0

US tactics

Attrition - 0
Chemical weapons - 0
Helicopters - 0
Operation Rolling Thunder - 0
Search and destroy - 0
Vietnam - 0

VC - 0

Vietcong - 0
Booby traps - 0
Guerrilla warfare - 0
Ho Chi Minh Trail - 0
Tactics - 0
Tunnels - 0

Vietnam

Cost of war - 0
French occupation - 12
Impact on civilians - 0
Peace negotiations - 0
Political opposition - 0
President Diem - 0
Tet Offensive - 0
The media war - 0
Vietnamisation - 0