

Year 12 Modern History with Mrs Carr: What are we actually going to do?

We are studying Unit Y218 of OCR A-level History: **International Relations 1890-1941**. This unit explores the reasons for and impact of major developments in international relations in Europe and the wider world from the origins of the First World War to the causes of the Second World War. We will focus particularly on historical debates about the causes and nature of the First World War, and debates about the causes of the Second World War.

The causes and nature of the First World War

- Ideologies as causes of war: nationalism, imperialism, militarism.
- The aims and situations of the Great Powers: consequences of a unified Germany; war plans and navies, the Anglo- German naval race; the Alliances and Ententes and their consequences.
- The Moroccan crises 1905-6 and 1911; acceleration of the arms race and strengthening of the Triple Entente; the Balkans: crisis 1908-9 and the Balkan Wars 1912 and 1913; the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the July crisis;
- Aims and policies of Germany, Austria- Hungary, France, Russia and Great Britain;
- The nature of the war; main events on the Western Front, trench warfare; the war on the Eastern Front; the role of the generals; the role of technology, naval and air warfare; reasons for the entry of US and impact on WW1;
- The reasons for the outcome on Western and Eastern fronts: impact of the Bolshevik revolution; final German offensive and its consequence; the armistices.

The Paris Peace Conference, the League of Nations, and international diplomacy 1919–1935

- Aims and motives of the 'Big Four' and how that shaped the treaties; organisation of the Paris Peace conference – how effective was it;
- The terms and impact of the Peace Treaties (Versailles, St Germain, Trianon, Neuilly, Sèvres and Lausanne), the reaction in Germany; enforcing the Treaty of Versailles (1920-3);
- The reasons for and nature of the League of Nations; the activities of the League of Nations and its response to international and social problems, 1920–1935: successes and failures (Corfu Incident, Greek-Bulgarian war, Manchuria, Abyssinia);
- The Conference of Ambassadors: role in carrying out the terms of Versailles; in Albania, Upper Silesia, Memel and the Ruhr;
- disarmament, the Washington and London Naval Agreements;
- the Locarno Treaties: security, gains, Locarno spirit and Germany's re-emergence, Russia and E Europe;
- the Kellogg-Briand Pact: aims, impact and outcomes of the pact.

Dictators and Appeasers in Europe 1929–1941

- The impact of the Great Depression on international relations; growth of extremism and Hitler's rise to power and foreign policy aims; reaction of the Great Powers to Nazi Germany, 1933-5;
- Italian foreign policy 1935–1941: aims and objectives, Abyssinian crisis 1935, Rome-Berlin Axis ;
- appeasement policies of Britain and France; arms race 1936-9; the debate about appeasement and role of Chamberlain; the Munich Agreement; British and French reaction to Czechoslovakia; German reaction
- the Spanish Civil War and its impact on international relations: causes and impact of the Spanish civil war
- the relations between Russia and the rest of Europe to 1941, including the Nazi-Soviet Pact:

Soviet reaction to Nazi-Germany, Nazi-Soviet Pact, aims and outcomes;

- the outbreak and expansion of war in Europe; Soviet responses; increasing German success; British and French response;

The Far East 1918–1941

- The impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Japan; Japanese nationalism in the 1920s and 1930s, and Japanese aims in the Far East; the impact of the Depression on Japan;
- the origins and impact of the Manchurian Crisis: why did Japan occupy Manchuria, League of Nations response, Britain and US response, impact of occupation;
- the impact of the war between Japan and China 1937–1941;
- policies towards Japanese expansion in the 1930s including those of Britain and the USA;
- the Japanese invasion of Indo-China and the outbreak of war between Japan and the USA in 1941: consequences and impact of the invasion of Indo-China, the road to Pearl Harbor – why did US-Japanese relations deteriorate? The events of Pearl Harbor and their consequences for international relations.

How will I be examined?

The exam is 1 hour long. You answer:

1 short question worth 10 marks

- You are asked to compare the role and importance of two factors

1 essay question worth 20 marks

- Assess the reasons for...
- '_____.' How far do you agree?
- How far...
- To what extent...
- How successful...