

Core Content: *Aspects of International Relations*

The Inter-War Years, 1919–1939

Key Question 1: Were the peace treaties of 1919–1923 fair?

Focus Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the motives and aims of the Big Three at Versailles? • Why did the victors not get everything they wanted? • What were the immediate reactions to the peace settlement? • Could the treaties be justified at the time?
Specified Content	The peace treaties of 1919–1923 (Versailles, St Germain, Trianon, Sèvres and Lausanne); the roles of individuals such as Wilson, Clemenceau and Lloyd George in the peacemaking process; the immediate reactions to, and opinions about, the treaties, especially in Britain, France, Germany and the USA.

Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

Focus Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the aims of the League? • How successful was the League in the 1920s? • How far did weaknesses in the League's organisation make failure inevitable? • How far did the Depression make the work of the League more difficult? • Why did the League fail over Manchuria and Abyssinia?
Specified Content	The aims of the League, its strengths and weaknesses in structure and organisation; successes and failures in peacekeeping during the 1920s; disarmament; the work of the Court of International Justice; the ILO and the Special Commissions; the impact of the World Depression on the work of the League after 1929; the failures of the League in Manchuria and Abyssinia.

Key Question 3: Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

Focus Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the long-term consequences of the peace treaties of 1919–1923? • What were the consequences of the failures of the League in the 1930s? • How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in 1939? • Was the policy of appeasement justified? • How important was the Nazi-Soviet Pact? • Why did Britain and France declare war on Germany in September 1939?
Specified Content	The collapse of international order in the 1930s; the increasing militarism of Germany, Italy and Japan; Hitler's foreign policy up to 1939; the Saar, remilitarisation of the Rhineland, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland; the Nazi-Soviet Pact; appeasement and the outbreak of war in September 1939.