# Unit Y321: THE MIDDLE EAST 1908-2011

Note: Based on 3 x 50 minute lessons per week

Terms based on 6 term year.

This theme focuses on Middle Eastern developments from the last years of the Ottoman Empire through the creation of Mandates and successor states, their rivalries, the vision of pan-Arabism and popular forces and to the regional and civil wars of the period 1908-2011. **Learners are not expected to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the specification content, except for the named in-depth studies, but are expected to know the main developments and turning points relevant to the theme**.

| **Key Topic** | **Number of Lessons** | **Indicative Content** | **Extended Content** | **Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The role of the Great Powers in the Middle East** | 2 | The aims, policies and methods of Britain and France to 1956 and of Russia and the US to 2011  | * General introductory overview of the roles of Britain and France – territories acquired and given up
* Aims of the British e.g. protection of the route to India
* Aims of the French e.g. to check British expansion, to protect the Suez Canal
* Aims of the Soviet Union and Russia e.g. support for Arab socialism
* Aims of the US e.g. protection of oil interests
* Introduction to the methods used by the great powers e.g. direct intervention, soft power, selling arms and weapons, threats, proxy wars
* Key agreements such as Sykes-Picot
 | * *Access to History: The Middle East 1908-2011* (second edition), Michael Scott-Baumann (Hodder) *also contains an excellent bibliography*
* *The Arab-Israeli Conflict (Seminar Studies in History),* Kisrten E. Schulze
* *A History of the Middle East (4th edition),* Peter Mansfield
* *The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Very Short Introduction*, Martin Bunton
* *A Line in the Sand: Britain, France and the Struggle for Master of the Middle East*, James Barr
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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 3 | The role of the League of Nations and the UN | * The League’s decisions on to whom to award mandates
* Terms of the Treaty of Versailles
* Admission of states to the \league
* UN role in Palestine after 1945, reasons for the Partition Plan
 |  |
| 3 | The use of mandates, coups, occupations, allies, bases and client states | * French rule in Syria and Lebanon
* British rule in Transjordan and Iraq
* Anglo-French relations with and interference in other states such as Egypt
* Post-1945 allies of Britain, France and the USA
* Post-1945 allies of the Soviet Union
 |
| 3 | Great Power involvement in War from 1914 through era Cold War to the Gulf Wars (1987, 1991 and 2003) | * Role of the great powers in the First and Second World Wars in the Middle East
* Role of the USA and USSR in the 1948, 167, and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars
* Role of the USA and USSR in the Gulf Wars
* Role of the USA and Russia in post-2008 conflicts and uprisings
 |
|  | 1 | The Great Powers and resources: oil, the Seven Sisters, concessions and nationalisation, the Mossadeq Coup 1953, OPEC and oil as a weapon | * Reasons for the importance of oil to the great powers
* Role and impact of the Seven Sisters
* Reasons for the overthrow of Mossadeq
* Why was OPEC set up and how did it work?
* How did OPEC use oil as a weapon e.g. in 1973
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 |
|  | 1 | Oil wars and strategy | * Reasons for American involvement in the Iran-Iraq, Gulf and Iraq wars
* Role of individual countries in oil wars and strategy e.g. Saddam Hussein’s Iraq
 |
| **Zionism, Israel and the Palestinian issue** | 2 | Zionist ideas and the impact of the First and Second World wars  | * Origins and development of Zionist ideas from Herzl
* Jewish emigration to Palestine before and during the First World War
* Growth of Zionism in the 1920 and 1930s
* How the second world war and the Holocaust influenced Zionism
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| 3 | The Jewish AgencyThe creation of Israel and the 1948 warArab-Israeli Wars (1956, 1967, 1973) and invasions (Lebanon 1982 and 2006, Gaza 2008) | * Reasons for the creation of the Jewish Agency
* How the Agency worked
* Role of Zionism and anti-Zionism in Arab-Israeli Wars and invasions
* Impact of Arab-Israeli Wars and invasions on Palestinian issue
 |
| 3 | The Occupied Territories settlements and wallIsraeli leadership and diplomacy including Sadat, Camp David and Oslo, the Road Map for peace  | * Dates of occupation
* Reasons for increasing settlements
* Reactions to settlement building
* Reason for building the wall
* Characteristics and key features of Israeli leadership and diplomacy
 |
| 4 | Palestine to 1948Palestinian refugees and the impact on Jordan, Lebanon and GazaThe PLO and ArafatIntifadas (1987-1993, 2000-2011) and Palestinian divisionsThe Palestinian Authority: the West Bank, Gaza, land, water and the conflict over resources | * Life in Palestine to 1948: groups, economy, society, tensions
* Conditions for refugees
* Rise of political movements in Jordan, Lebanon, Gaza e.g. Hezbollah
* Reasons for the creation of the PLO
* Actions of the PLO and effects on the Middle East
* Reasons for, and consequences of Intifadas
* How the authority was administered
* Political, economic and social tensions
 |
| **Statehood and Pan Arabism in the Middle East**  | 2 | The progress of Arabism from 1908 | * What was Pan Arabism?
* How did it develop from 1908?
* Why did it gain in popularity and why did it wane?
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|  | 3 | Nasser and the Arab revolution in Egypt and Syria 1954-70The impact of the Arab-Israeli Wars and regional rivalries | * Role of Nasser in Pan-Arabism
* Nasser’s Egypt – key features
* Nasser’s role in development of Syria
* How the wars impacted on Nasser and Pan-Arabism in general
 |
|  | 2 | Democratic, monarchical and authoritarian states including Ataturk’s secular state and its successors; monarchies including Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Wahhabi Movement | * Key features and characteristics of political, religious and economic development in these states
 |
|  | 3 | Syria including the Baathist Movement, the Assads and risings to 2011; Iraq from Faisal to Saddam Hussein and Iran from Shah (1925) to Ayatollahs  | * Impact of Baathism on Syria and Iraq
* Extent of similarity and/or difference with other states e.g. Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia
 |
| **Religion, ethnicity and political minorities** | 2 | Sunni and Shia in the Arab States; Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood from 1920; Iran and the Islamic Revolution;  | * How Sunni and Shia communities developed and interacted across the period
* Impact of the Muslim Brotherhood on government and society
* Reasons for the revolution in Iran and its impact on the Middle East
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| 2 | Hezbollah and Hamas; Al Qaeda; | * Reasons for establishment of each organisation
* Key beliefs and actions
* Impact on the Middle East in general
 |
| 2 | Christian communities especially in the Lebanon, the Armenians and the Copts; Jewish communities and their attitudes to Israel; | * How Christian communities were treated and treated others
* How Jewish communities were treated and how attitudes to Israeli changed over time
 |
| 2 | ethnic groups and minorities including Kurds, Armenians, Jews, Palestinians; the role and influence of the Middle Eastern diaspora | * Role of ethnicity in the middle east
* Persecution, discrimination and tolerance
* Role of specific groups in Middle East conflict e.g. Kurds and the PKK
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# Unit Y321: THE MIDDLE EAST – Depth studies

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*yOU COULD CHOOSE TO INTEGRATE THIS WITHIN THE SECTION ABOVE, SHOULD YOU WISH TO TEACH THIS CHRONOLOGICALLY, HOWEVER PLEASE NOTE QUESTIONS ON THE THEMATIC ESSAY ARE THEMATIC IN NATURE, WHEREAS THE DEPTH STUDIES ARE ROOTED IN INTERPRETATIONS.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **British Policy and the Middle East 1908-1948** | 2 | British imperial aims pre-1914, the First World War and the partition of the Middle East (Sykes-Picot Agreement, the Balfour Declaration, McMahon-Hussein letters, the Peace Treaties)  | * General British imperial aims e.g. route to India, protecting the empire
* How the First World War affected British aims
* Reasons why Sykes-Picot was agreed and its terms
* Reasons for the Balfour Declaration
* Impact of the McMahon-Hussein letters
* Impact of the peace treaties on British policy and attitudes to the British
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 |
| 2 | policy approaches to the British Mandates of Palestine and Transjordan; British oil companies; relations with Faisal and Iraq; relations with Arabs and Jews and the proposed solutions; problems and policy in British Egypt;  | * How the mandates were governed
* Economic, political and social development
* Actions of oil companies
* Why relations with Faisal and Iraq changed
* How relations with Arabs and Jews changed in the 1920s and 1930s
* Proposed solutions and their reception
* Reasons for problems in Egypt and British reactions
 |
| 2 | the impact of the Second World War and the Biltmore Declaration; the reasons for withdrawal from Palestine in 1948.  | * British government white paper in 1939
* Increasing US involvement and interest
* Jewish terrorism- impact of the Biltmore Conference
* Decision to hand over Palestine to the Un – reasons for and impact of decision
 |
| **Arab-Israeli Conflict 1948-1956** | 2 | Arab attitudes in 1948, particularly towards the Palestinians; the creation of the state of Israel; the reasons for an attack on Israel and the First Arab-Israeli War 1948–1949; the reasons for Israel’s survival and Arab attitudes to this (perpetual war);  | * Arab response to partition plans in 1947
* Civil war in Palestine 1947-48
* Deir Yassin
* Reasons for an attack on Israel
* Phases of fighting and outcomes
* Armistice agreements and ‘perpetual war’
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 |
| 2 | the Suez Crisis of 1956, the Second Arab-Israeli War and the expansion of Israel  | * Reasons for the Suez crisis inside Egypt
* Great power actions and attitudes to Suez
* Winners and losers after Suez
* Reasons for the Second Arab-Israeli war
* Outcome for Israel
 |
| 2 | the reasons for Israel’s success and the impact on the Palestinians (refugees) and the Arab World, especially Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the Lebanon.  | * Different and similar reasons for Israeli defeating Egypt, Syria and Jordan
* Impact on the Palestinians e.g. UN Resolution 242
* Wider impact in the Middle East
 |
| **Nasserism 1952-1970** | 2 | Nasser and Pan Arabism; Arab Socialism (nationalisation of industry and finance, land reform and development from above)  | * Nasser’s background, beliefs and career to 1952
* Origins and growth of Pan Arabism
* The Egyptian Revolution and the Baghdad Pact
* ‘Voice of the Arabs’
* Key characteristics of Arab socialism – how effective was it?
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 |
| 2 | relations with Britain, France, the US and the USSR; the Suez Crisis 1956; regional rivalry and the Arab Cold War 1956–1963 (Egypt, Iraq and the creation of the United Arab Republic)  | * Nasser’s relations with Britain, France and the USA and how they changed after 1956
* Relations with the USSR
* Czech arms deal
* Divisions within the Arab world and Nasser’s motives 1956-63
* Reasons for creation of, and failure of, UAR
 |
| 2 | Nasser and the Non-Aligned movement; 1967 War and the death of Pan Arabism. | * Reasons for involvement in Non-Aligned movement and key characteristics
* Effects of 1967 war on Nasser and public opinion
* Waning interest in Pan Arabism
* Reasons for death of Pan Arabism
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