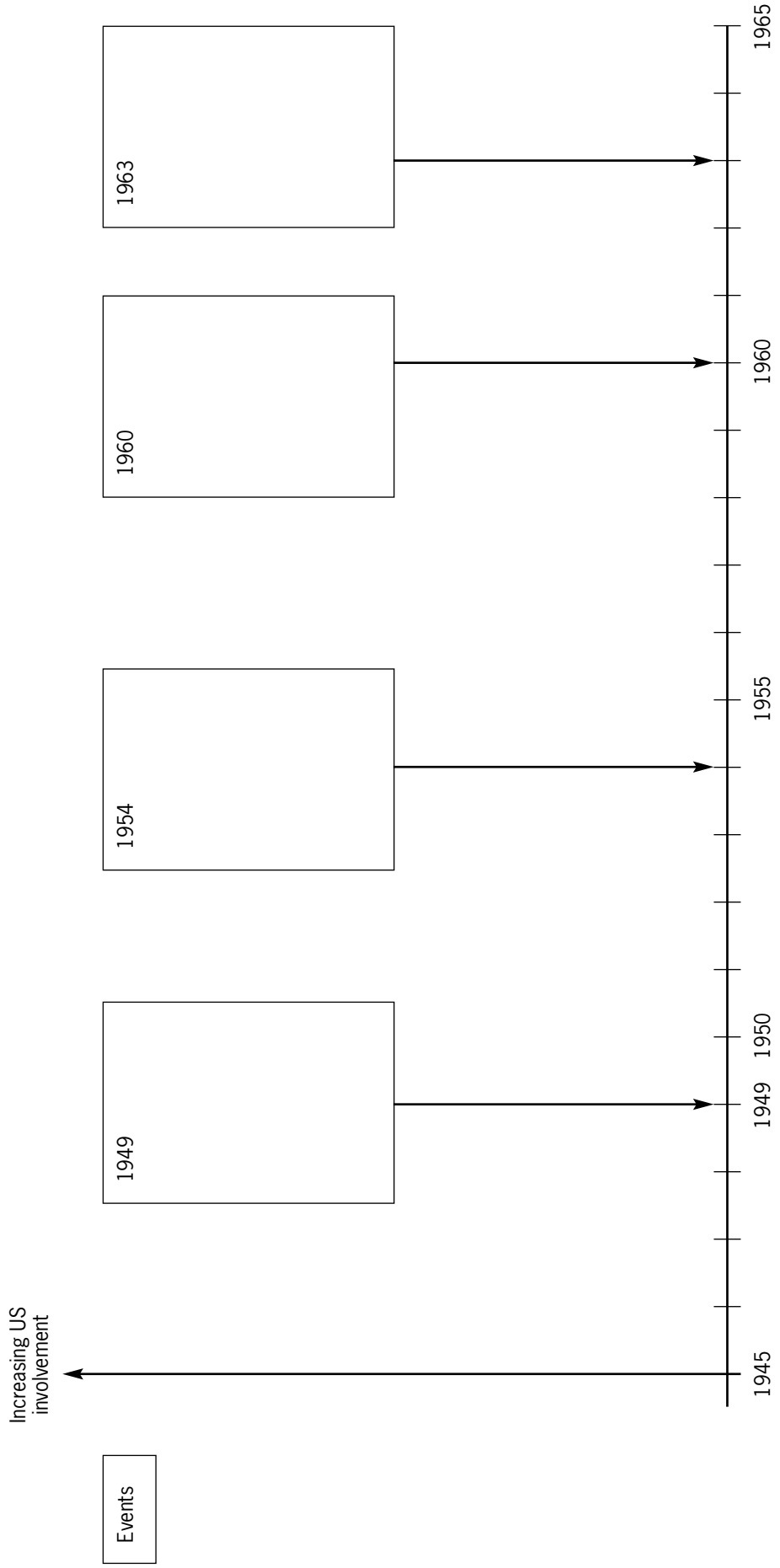## WORKSHEET 6.1

Why did the USA get increasingly involved in Vietnam?

Use this sheet to help you with the first part of the Focus Task on page 102.

The timeline below has the phases already marked. Your task is to use the information in the textbook to identify events that triggered each new phase of American involvement. Mark the increasing involvement as a line graph. But do not limit yourself to troop numbers. That is only one measure. Write the explanations in the box provided. You can add more events if you wish.

All the events marked below were important but you have to choose just two of these events which you think were *most critical* in increasing American involvement. Highlight those events in a different colour then write an explanation on the back of this sheet as to why those were the most important in your opinion.

Increasing US
involvement

Events

1949	1954	1960	1963

1945   1949 1950   1955   1960   1965

Use this sheet to help you with question 5 of the Focus Task on page 102.

⊙ **Extension**

Here is the beginning of a conversation between an isolationist and an interventionist. Write at least two more bubbles for the interventionist then continue the conversation further if you wish. The Help Zone gives you some arguments to choose from for the interventionist. Make sure you also refer to the pink panel on page 102 of your textbook.

Isolationist

Interventionist

You are making a grave error. America should look after its own interests, not fight other people's battles for them.

But can't you see this is our battle? It is our interests that are at stake. These Commies are bent on world domination. If we don't stop them we will be overrun.

What makes you think you can win? Fighting a war in a far-away land will be impossible. It will bleed you dry.

The American people will not support you. As soon as the first dead troops come home they will turn against you. Come the next election you'll be voted out.

You should be trading with these people not killing them.

⊙ **Help Zone**
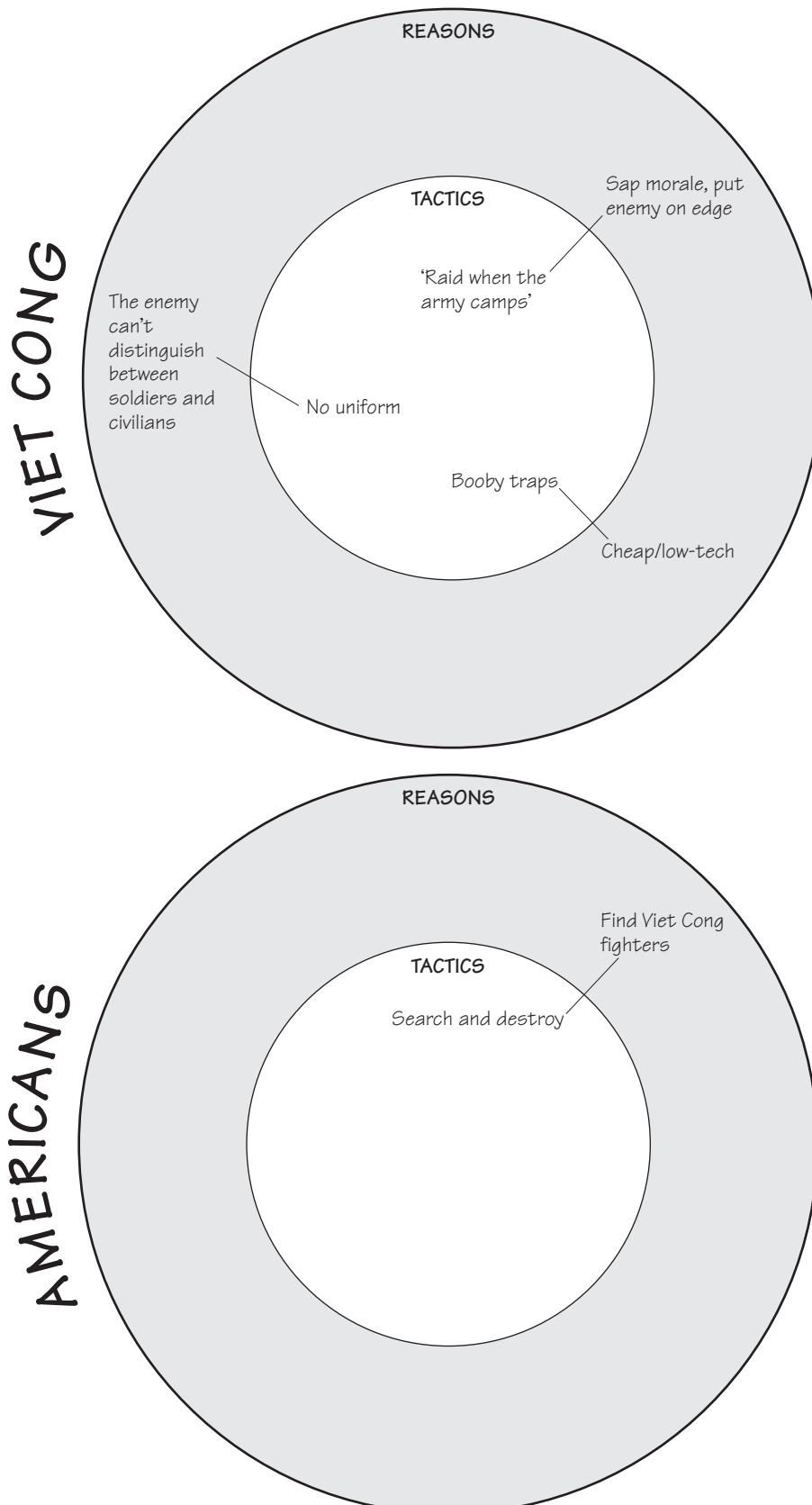
Arguments the interventionist might use:
- America has the most powerful army on earth. If we set our will to it we will win.
- You are sounding like a Communist yourself if I may say so. Do you want them to win?
- Do you remember what happened the last time America decided to keep out of world affairs? The result was Adolf Hitler.
- It will be good for American businesses to have a war – we can supply the weapons.
- Have you never heard of the 'Domino Theory'?
- How else are we going to contain the Communist threat?

Comparing the tactics of the Viet Cong and the USA

Use this sheet to help you with Part 1 of the Focus Task on page 104.

Make a big diagram like this. Yours should be much bigger – as big as your desk or table if possible – so that you can write as much as you want, or paste pictures with labels into the middle. This example is just to give you an idea of how to fill in the diagram. You will research either the Viet Cong or the Americans. And you will fill the diagram in as you work through pages 104–111.

REASONS

VIET CONG

TACTICS

Sap morale, put enemy on edge

'Raid when the army camps'

The enemy can't distinguish between soldiers and civilians

No uniform

Booby traps

Cheap/low-tech

REASONS

AMERICANS

TACTICS

Find Viet Cong fighters

Search and destroy

Whose tactics were most effective?

Use this sheet to help you with Part 2 of the Focus Task on page 104.

For Part 1 you studied either the Viet Cong or the USA. Combine with a group or a person who has studied the other side and fill out this table together. You may feel that you do not have enough information to complete all the rows. Don't be afraid to leave some blanks. Focus on the rows that you think are really important. You are supposed to write *comments* in each cell, not just yes or no! When you have finished your table write your *own* conclusions at the bottom as to how the balance falls in your opinion. This may not be the same conclusion as your partner!

Qualities of a successful army	The US army	◤ or ◥	The Viet Cong
Well-trained soldiers			
The right technology			
Reliable supplies and equipment			
Effective tactics			
Support from the Vietnamese population			
Motivated and committed soldiers			
Other			

My overall conclusions

I think that the armies were/were not finally balanced because _____

The most important quality in determining who won the war in Vietnam was _____

This is because _____

Vietnam War tactics sorting cards

Use this sheet to help you with the Focus Task on page 104.

At the start of the war the American troops were highly trained and professional. Later in the war they were mostly inexperienced young men drafted into the army for just one year.	The Viet Cong were experienced guerrilla fighters using tactics that had already succeeded against the Japanese and French in Vietnam.
The US army had inadequate information and intelligence about the whereabouts of Viet Cong strongholds. Many innocent civilians were killed and villages destroyed.	The Viet Cong were outnumbered by the US and South Vietnamese forces. At its height there were half a million American soldiers in Vietnam.
The Americans had good technology. They had the most advanced helicopters, guns, bombs and vehicles.	The Viet Cong used mostly low-technology forms of combat: booby traps and simple weapons.
The Americans were well supplied with every kind of weapon and the USA was the richest country in the world.	The Viet Cong were well supplied through the Ho Chi Minh Trail from North Vietnam, who themselves got help from China.
The Americans relied heavily on air power. They dropped large amounts of bombs on North Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and villages in South Vietnam.	The Vietnamese used guerrilla tactics: retreat when the enemy attacks; raid when the enemy camps; attack when the enemy tires; pursue when the enemy retreats.
To combat the guerrillas the Americans used search-and-destroy patrols sent out to find guerrillas in the villages. These patrols were ambushed and they lost large numbers of men. Also they were unpopular with the Vietnamese peasants, pushing the peasants towards the Viet Cong.	The Viet Cong refused to give in despite heavy losses. They were deeply committed to their cause and were determined to defend Vietnam from yet another outside force after getting rid of the Japanese and the French.
The Viet Cong had about 170,000 heavily armed and well-supplied soldiers.	The Viet Cong were respectful to the Vietnamese people, which got the peasants on their side.
The Americans used chemical weapons like Agent Orange which killed and injured many civilians as well as Viet Cong fighters.	The Viet Cong troops were no match for the US and South Vietnamese in an open battle. They were easily defeated at La Dreng Valley in November 1965.
Many of the American soldiers did not know much about Vietnam before they arrived and were not motivated to defend it.	Guerrillas were difficult for the US army to fight. They blended in with the local population and used surprise attacks to ambush small groups of soldiers.
The Americans were fighting to support a very unpopular regime in South Vietnam which did not have the support of the peasant population in the countryside.	Communism is a strong ideology that taught its followers to give everything to spread the cause more widely.

Explaining your conclusions

The failure of the US army to beat the Communists in Vietnam was the result of its own weaknesses and Viet Cong strengths.

The US weaknesses were …

_____

_____

_____

At the same time, the Communist strengths were …

_____

_____

_____

The US forces did have some successes. For example …

_____

_____

_____

However, there were some major failures as well. Examples of these were …

_____

_____

_____

The Viet Cong had some major successes, such as …

_____

_____

_____

However, they also suffered defeats, for example …

_____

_____

_____

If I had to identify one major American weakness, it would be _____ because …

_____

_____

_____

The key Viet Cong strength was _____ because …

_____

_____

_____

Use this sheet to help you with the Activity on page 112.

Use this worksheet to help you collect information for your poster to persuade supporters of containment that the policy is not working in Vietnam.

---

1 In this box, note all of the reasons why you feel the war in Vietnam is wrong.

---

3 In this box, list possible images for your poster.
Think about:

- background (e.g. destroyed villages)
- the central image (e.g. picture of a young soldier)
- whether you will need words to explain your image.

---

2 In this box, note what you are trying to achieve with this poster (e.g. to convince people to write to their Congressmen to get the troops out).

---

4 In this box, experiment with different slogans.

⊙ **Help Zone**

Use the information below to help you add information and arguments to your poster:

- The US was accused of defending a country thousands of miles away and of using inhumane methods that killed many innocent people.
- The Vietnam War was broadcast on TV and radio around the world. People in America and Europe saw innocent people being tortured or executed.
- The tactics of the US military were turning many Vietnamese people against them and towards the Viet Cong.
- The American population turned against the war. They demonstrated against the war and refused to serve in the army in Vietnam.
- The American public were deeply shocked by the brutal massacre of over 300 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai.
- An increasing number of Americans did not think that the war could be won.
- The US forces were severely embarrassed by the Tet Offensive in 1968 when they were taken by surprise by a Viet Cong offensive. They destroyed the ancient city of Hue, regaining territory from the Communists.
- The US had 500,000 troops in Vietnam and was spending $20billion a year. However, they were still unable to defeat the Communists.

Use this sheet to help you with the Activity on page 117.

Source 51 on page 117 is one of a series of cartoons which is to be presented in an online exhibition about the Vietnam War. Your task is to write two captions for the cartoon that help viewers understand the point being made.

- Above the cartoon write a brief twenty-word summary.
- Below it write a more detailed explanation which Internet users can select if they want to know more. This should be about 150 words. You can include arrows and labels picking up key features of the cartoon and what they mean.

You can refer to later events even though this cartoon was published in 1967.

Short caption _____

_____

_____

"... AND IN VIETNAM MY PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO WIN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE PEOPLE—OF THE U.S.A."

Cartoon by Garland, published in the *Daily Telegraph* on 11 January 1967, British Cartoon Archive, University of Kent.

Longer caption _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Use this sheet once you have studied the Focus Task on page 119 and the information on page 120.

1 Use this grid to record the evidence to support each of the different reasons for the American withdrawal.

2 Use the empty sixth box if you identify a reason that we have not included.

3 These were all reasons but some are more important than others. You have 100 points to distribute between these reasons. The more important the reason, the more points it gets. How will you share out your points?

4 Use the writing frame at the bottom of the page to write up your conclusions as to which is or are the most important reason(s).

Because they knew they could not win the war – their tactics had failed Evidence to support this view Points awarded	**Because they had a new president who was interested in other things** Evidence to support this view Points awarded
Because it was causing problems back home Evidence to support this view Points awarded	**Because they trusted the South Vietnamese to win the war without them** Evidence to support this view Points awarded
Because it was too expensive Evidence to support this view Points awarded	**Other**

In my opinion the most important reason(s) why the USA withdrew from Vietnam was/were _____

_____

_____

_____

I awarded it/them _____ points because _____

_____

_____

_____

I awarded it more points than other reasons because _____

_____

_____

_____

WORKSHEET 6.6

Use this sheet to help you with the Focus Task on page 123.

US military tactics in Vietnam

Mark: /10

Opposition, motivation and morale in the USA

Mark: /10

Chinese and Soviet support for the Viet Cong

Mark: /10

The experience of the Viet Cong and the inexperience of the American soldiers

Mark: /10

The unpopularity of the South Vietnamese regime

Mark: /10

1 Make five cards like these. On each card write an explanation and write or paste some supporting evidence.
2 Once you have something on all the cards paste them onto a large sheet of paper then make connections between them. For example, the unpopularity of the South Vietnamese regime is linked to low morale of US troops because they increasingly felt that the government they were fighting to defend was actually unpopular with the ordinary Vietnamese people – so why fight this war at all? Aim to make at least three connections but more if you wish.

Record your connections on this table.

Factor	Summarise the connection	Factor

3 Once you have made all the connections, give each factor a score out of ten to show how important it is. The more connections, the more important the factor probably is.

EXAM TRAINING PART 2

Below are some examples of the kind of questions you will face in an exam. But unlike in an exam you have your textbook to help you. So whilst you rummage around in the textbook to find the sources, take time to notice what the text says about it: what the caption says; what other sources are there. This will all add to your background knowledge which is so important in the exams. You won't have the textbook to help you in an exam, of course, but this is not an exam, this is training.

Before you start you should also look up the Exam Focus guidance for Paper 1 Core which is in your textbook on pages 206–208.

Exam training for Chapter 4

Compulsory question 1 style

1 a) Study Source 2 on page 68 of your textbook. What is the message of this cartoon? Use details of the cartoon and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]

   b) Explain why there were tensions between the Allied leaders at the Potsdam conference. [8]

Optional question 2 style

2 a) What was 'the Iron Curtain'? [4]

   b) Explain why the Allies agreed that eastern Europe should be a Soviet 'sphere of influence'. [6]

   c) 'Stalin's takeover of eastern Europe was the principal cause of the Cold War.' How far do you agree with this statement? [10]

Exam training for Chapter 5

Compulsory question 1 style

1 a) Study Source 10 on page 90 of your textbook. What is the message of this cartoon? Use details of the cartoon and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]

   b) Explain why President Kennedy supported the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. [8]

Optional question 2 style

2 a) What happened in the Cuban Revolution of 1959? [4]

   b) Explain why President Kennedy blockaded Cuba in 1962. [6]

   c) 'Khrushchev gained the most from the Cuban Missile Crisis.' How far do you agree with this statement? [10]

Exam training for Chapter 6

Compulsory question 1 style

1 a) Study Source 61, cartoon 2 (1964), on page 121 of your textbook. What is the message of this cartoon? Use details of the cartoon and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]

   b) Explain why President Johnson sent combat troops to Vietnam in 1965. [8]

Optional question 2 style

2 a) What was 'search-and-destroy'? [4]

   b) Explain why the My Lai massacre affected attitudes to the Vietnam War. [6]

   c) 'The Tet Offensive was the turning point of the Vietnam War.' How far do you agree with this statement? [10]