

Paper 1:
Conflict and Tension, 1918-1939

The Birth of the League of Nations

1. Name 2 military terms of the Treaty of Versailles
2. When was the Treaty signed?
3. When did WW1 end?
4. When was the Wall Street Crash?
5. How much in reparations did Germany have to pay?
6. How much in reparations did Clemenceau initially want?
7. Name 2 territorial terms of the TOV

LO: To explain how the League of Nations was set up and identify its strengths and weaknesses.

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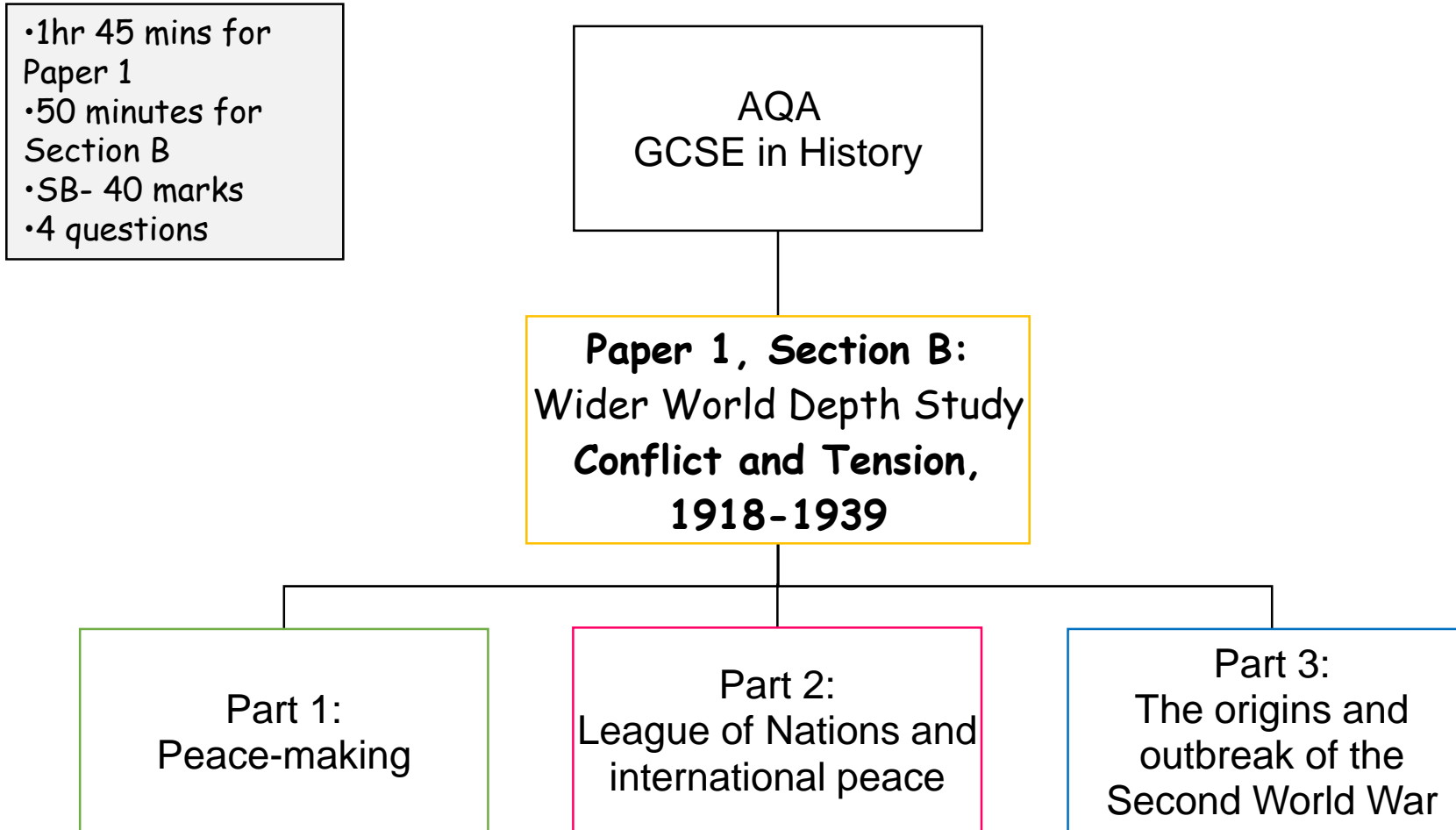
The Birth of the League of Nations

1. 100,000 men (army), 6 battleships, no submarines, no air force
2. 28th June 1919
3. 1918
4. 1929
5. £6.6 billion (132 gold marks)
6. £10 billion
7. Alsace Lorraine (given to Fr), Saar (coalfields given to Fr, then LON 15 years), Danzig given away, Polish Corridor (to Poland)

LO: To explain how the League of Nations was set up and identify its strengths and weaknesses.

The Big Picture

GCSE Level History



SOAR 



SOAR Word of the Week

Tuesday, 19 September 2023



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



St. Bede's Catholic School &
Byron Sixth Form College

<p>Definition Is a group of people, clubs, or countries that have joined together for a particular purpose, or because they share a common interest</p>	<p>Facts & Characteristics The League of the Nations was formed after WW1</p>
League	
<p>Examples The League of Nations</p>	<p>Non-Examples A single person/individual making decisions</p>

League	Is a group of people, clubs, or countries that have joined together for a particular purpose, or because they share a common interest.
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Glossary Update (Copy out)



Unanimous

Every country has to agree



Veto

Power to stop a decision



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5mkjDawFBI>



(2 Minutes): Brainstorm what you know about the LoN.

The League of Nations

- After WW1 many citizens in France, Britain and the USA (along with the leaders) wanted to avoid another war.
- The leaders agreed that the League of Nations - an organisation that could solve international problems without resorting to war - would help avoid another war.

Write down!



Covenant of the League

The Covenant set out the aims of the LoN. This was the 26 articles of the LoN that all member states had to agree to. It was meant to improve international cooperation, peace and security.

The aims of the League of Nations:

- To discourage aggression from any nation
- To encourage countries to co-operate, especially in business and trade
- To encourage nations to disarm
- To improve the living and working conditions of people in all parts of the world

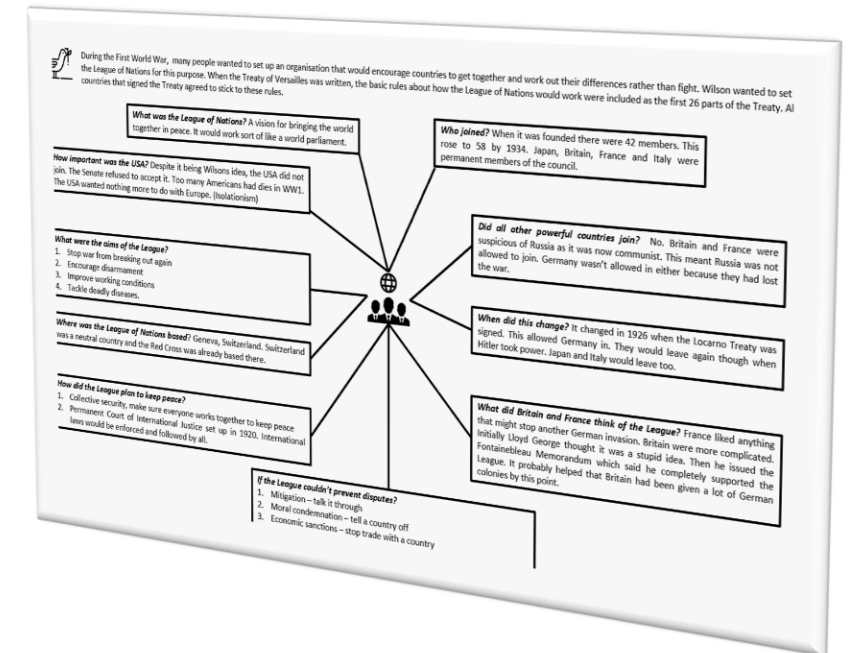
List the aims of the LoN

Explain which is the most and least important and why

Structure of the League of Nations

Use the information sheet to answer these questions about the League of Nations **in full sentences in you book.**

1. Who's idea was the League of Nations? **The LON was _____ idea**
2. What were the aims of the League of Nations? **The aims of the League were...**
3. Where was the League of Nations based? **The LON was based in...**
4. Who was allowed in the League of Nations and who was not? **Countries allowed in the LON were... the countries which were not allowed...**
5. Did Britain like the League of Nations? **Britain thought the LON was....**
6. How would the League of Nations keep peace? **The LON would keep the peace by...**
7. What powers did the League of Nations have? **The powers the LON had were..**





During the First World War, many people wanted to set up an organisation that would encourage countries to get together and work out their differences rather than fight. Wilson wanted to set up the League of Nations for this purpose. When the Treaty of Versailles was written, the basic rules about how the League of Nations would work were included as the first 26 parts of the Treaty. All countries that signed the Treaty agreed to stick to these rules.

What was the League of Nations? A vision for bringing the world together in peace. It would work sort of like a world parliament.

Who joined? When it was founded there were 42 members. This rose to 58 by 1934. Japan, Britain, France and Italy were permanent members of the council.

How important was the USA? Despite it being Wilson's idea, the USA did not join. The Senate refused to accept it. Too many Americans had died in WW1. The USA wanted nothing more to do with Europe. (Isolationism)

Did all other powerful countries join? No. Britain and France were suspicious of Russia as it was now communist. This meant Russia was not allowed to join. Germany wasn't allowed in either because they had lost the war.

What were the aims of the League?

1. Stop war from breaking out again
2. Encourage disarmament
3. Improve working conditions
4. Tackle deadly diseases.

When did this change? It changed in 1926 when the Locarno Treaty was signed. This allowed Germany in. They would leave again though when Hitler took power. Japan and Italy would leave too.

Where was the League of Nations based? Geneva, Switzerland. Switzerland was a neutral country and the Red Cross was already based there.

What did Britain and France think of the League? France liked anything that might stop another German invasion. Britain were more complicated. Initially Lloyd George thought it was a stupid idea. Then he issued the Fontainebleau Memorandum which said he completely supported the League. It probably helped that Britain had been given a lot of German colonies by this point.

How did the League plan to keep peace?

1. Collective security, make sure everyone works together to keep peace
2. Permanent Court of International Justice set up in 1920. International laws would be enforced and followed by all.

If the League couldn't prevent disputes?

1. Mitigation – talk it through
2. Moral condemnation – tell a country off
3. Economic sanctions – stop trade with a country
4. Military sanctions – use an army contributed to by all member states.



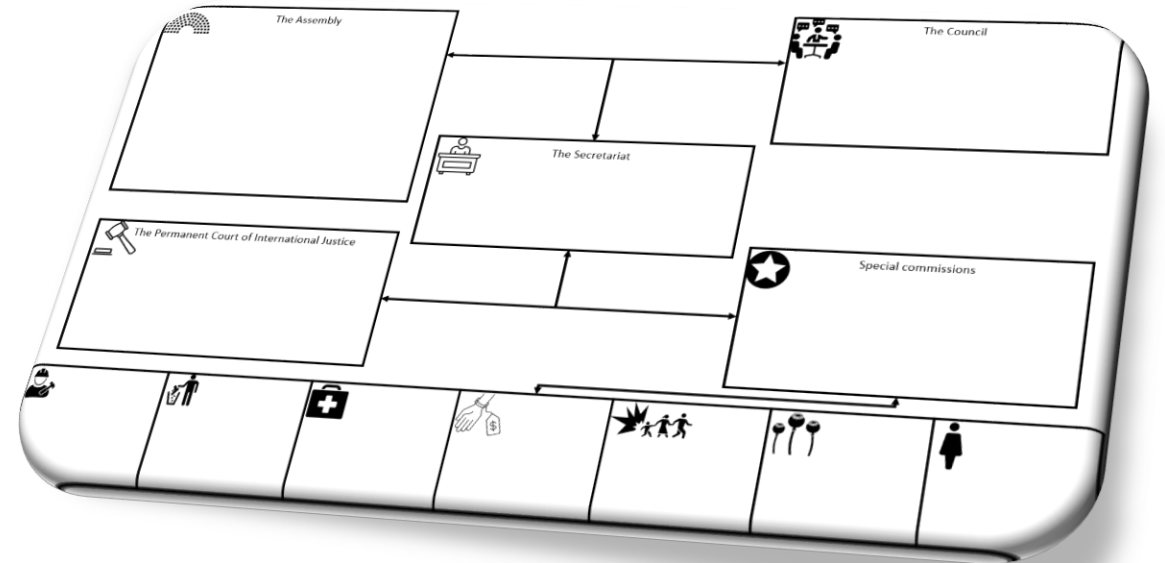
The structure of the League of Nations

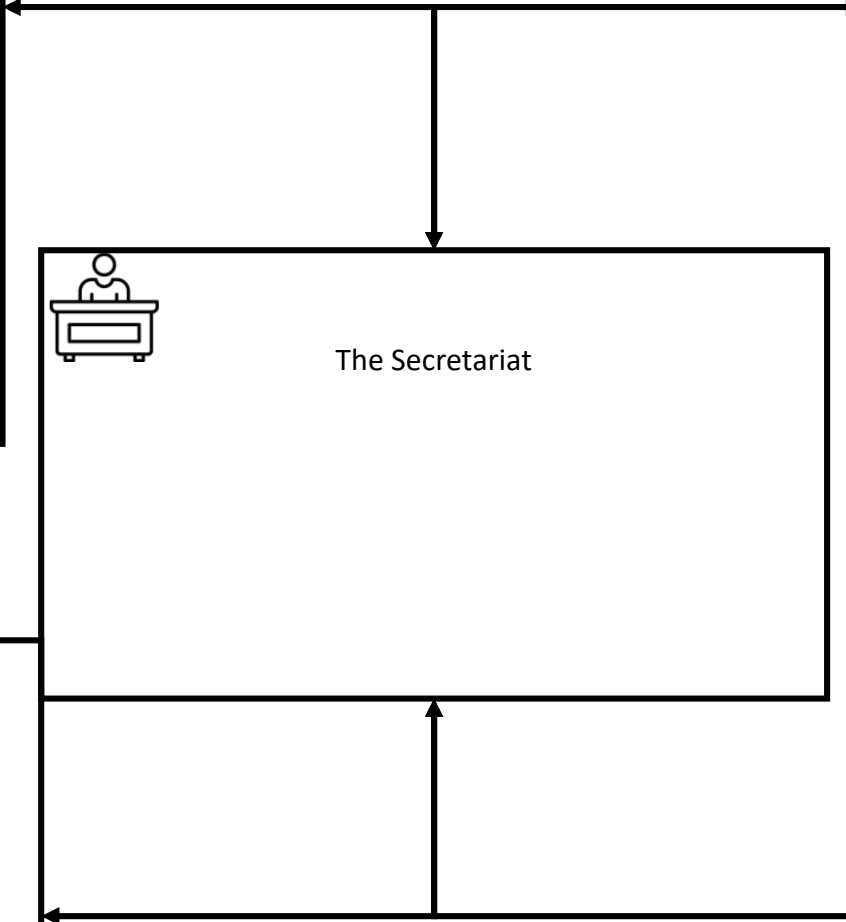
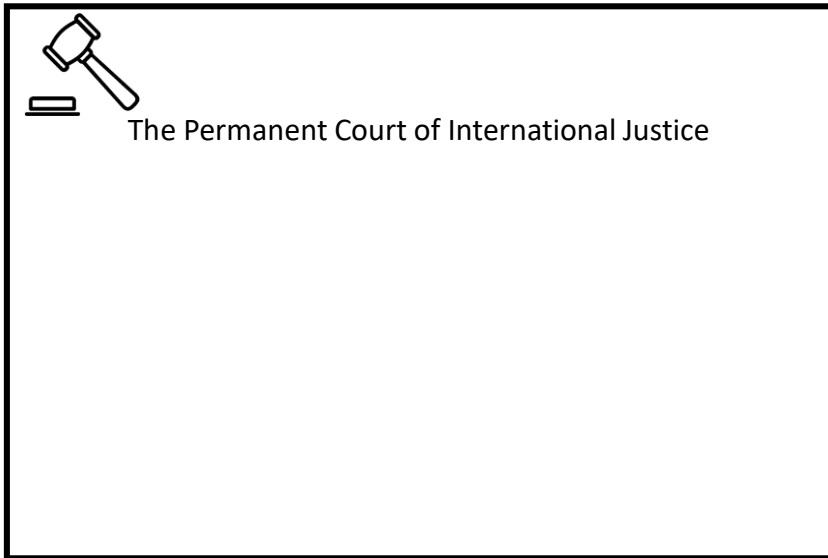
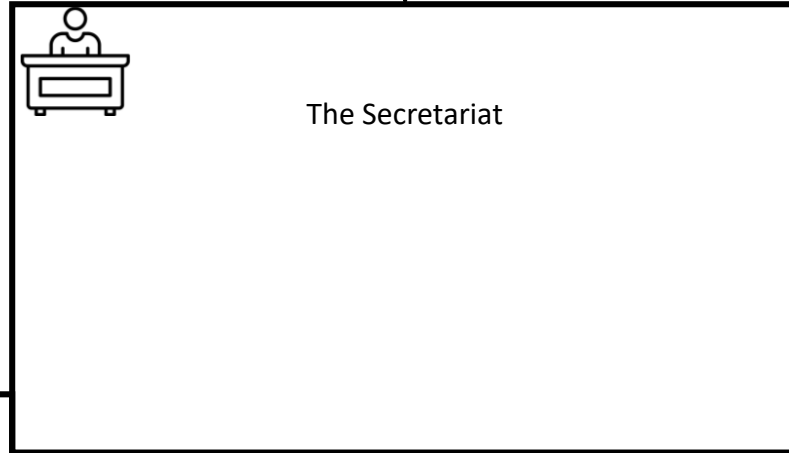
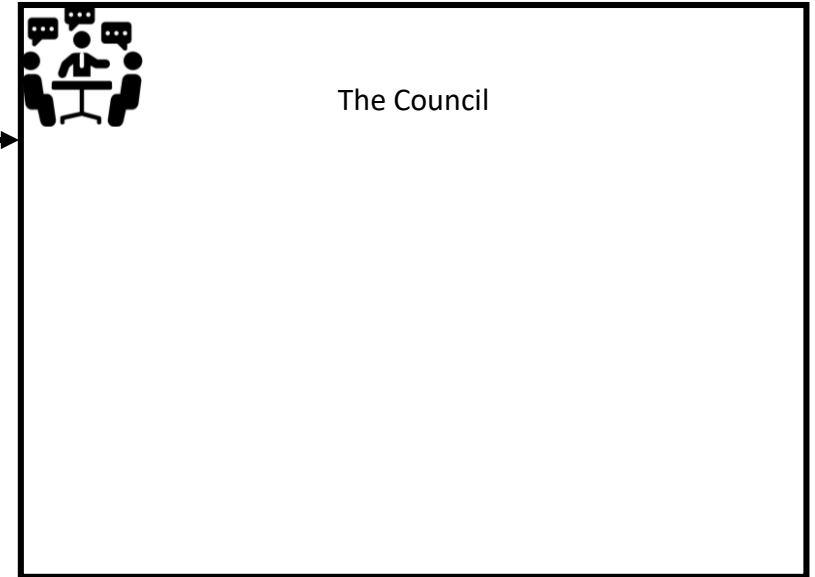
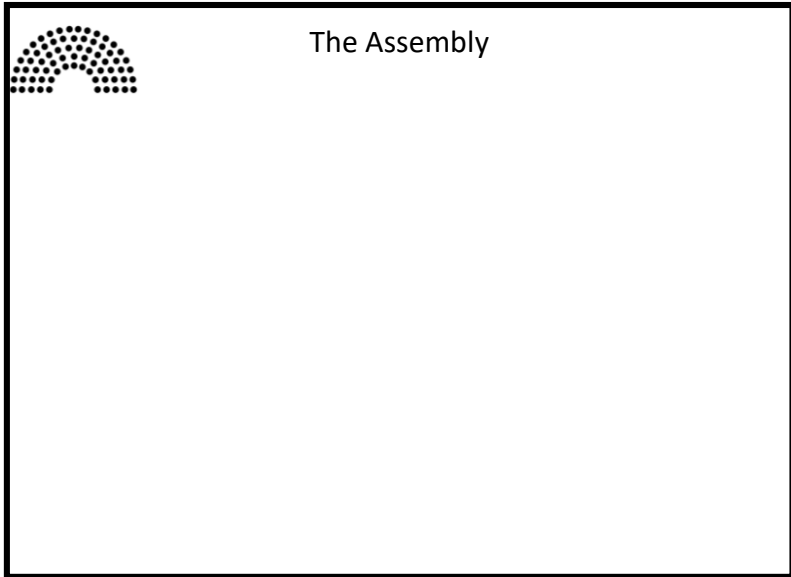
Using the information on pages 30-31, complete your overview table.

Select information carefully, do not try to get everything on to your sheet.

Where was the 'power' in the League of Nations?

- Which part of the structure is most powerful
- Which countries are most powerful







The Assembly

The Assembly was the League's Parliament. Every country in the League sent a representative to the Assembly. The Assembly could recommend action to the Council and could vote on:

- admitting new members to the League
- appointing temporary members of the Council
- the budget of the League
- other ideas put forward by the Council.

The Assembly only met once a year. Decisions made by the Assembly had to be unanimous – they had to be agreed by all members of the Assembly.



The Permanent Court of International Justice

This was meant to be a key part of the League's job of settling disputes between countries peacefully. The Court was based at the Hague in the Netherlands and was made up of judges from the member countries.

If it was asked, the Court would give a decision on a border dispute between two countries. It also gave legal advice to the Assembly or Council.

However, the Court was not like the courts which carried out the law within member countries. It had no way of making sure that countries followed its rulings.

The Council

The Council was a smaller group which met more often, usually about five times a year and in case of emergency. It included:

- permanent members. In 1920 these were Britain, France, Italy and Japan.
- temporary members. They were elected by the Assembly for three-year periods. The number of temporary members varied between four and nine at different times in the League's history.

Each of the permanent members of the Council had a VETO. This meant that one permanent member could stop the Council acting even if all other members agreed. The main idea behind the Council was that if any disputes arose between members, the members brought the problem to the Council and it was sorted out through discussion before matters got out of hand. However, if this did not work, the Council could use a range of powers:

- Moral condemnation: they could decide which country was 'the aggressor', i.e. which country was to blame for the trouble. They could condemn the aggressor's action and tell it to stop what it was doing.
- Economic and financial sanctions: members of the League could refuse to trade with the aggressor.
- Military force: the armed forces of member countries could be used against an aggressor.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat was a sort of civil service. It kept records of League meetings and prepared reports for the different agencies of the League. The Secretariat had specialist sections covering areas such as health, disarmament and economic matters.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The ILO brought together employers, governments and workers' representatives once a year. Its aim was to improve the conditions of working people throughout the world. It collected statistics and information about working conditions and it tried to persuade member countries to adopt its suggestions.



The League of Nations Commissions

As well as dealing with disputes between its members, the League also attempted to tackle other major problems. This was done through commissions or committees such as:

The Mandates Commission

The First World War had led to many former colonies of Germany and her allies ending up as League of Nations mandates ruled by Britain and France on behalf of the League. The Mandates Commission made sure that Britain or France acted in the interests of the people of that territory, not in its own interests.



The Refugees Committee

This helped to return refugees to their original homes after the end of the First World War.



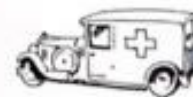
The Slavery Commission

This worked to abolish slavery around the world.



The Health Committee

The Health Committee attempted to deal with the problem of dangerous diseases and to educate people about health and sanitation.



Strengths and weaknesses of the League of Nations

Strengths

- It was a written part of all of the peace treaties signed after the First World War. That meant all countries had signed something that recognised the League of Nations as an organisation.
- It had huge membership.
- The number of members made economic sanctions and moral condemnation a frightening prospect for any country breaking the laws.

Weaknesses

- Many important countries did not join. For example, the USA. This meant it wasn't a global organisation and the USA was always available to trade with.
- The League had no army. That made it very difficult to enforce decisions.
- The structure was very complicated. It confused people and slowed down decisions.
- Decisions had to be unanimous. This meant decision making was very slow.

1. What is the biggest strength of the League of Nations? Why?
2. What was the biggest weakness of the League of Nations? Why?
3. Was the League of Nations doomed to fail? Explain your answer.

SUCCESSSES OF THE LEAGUE

Task: Using p. 239 of Walsh, make notes on the following:

- Refugees
- Working Conditions
- Health
- Social problems

Sword:

Make notes on what the League did for each.

Tank:

Explain how 3 of them are evidence of success

Bomb:

Complete the explanation for all the successes

- **Refugees** The League did tremendous work in getting refugees and former prisoners of war back to their homelands. It is estimated that in the first few years after the war, about 400,000 prisoners were returned to their homes by the League's agencies.

When a refugee crisis hit Turkey in 1922, hundreds of thousands of people had to be housed in refugee camps. The League acted quickly to stamp out cholera, smallpox and dysentery in the camps.

- **Working conditions** The International Labour Organization was successful in banning poisonous white lead from paint and in limiting the hours that small children were allowed to work. It also campaigned strongly for employers to improve working conditions generally.

It introduced a resolution for a maximum 48-hour week, and an eight-hour day, but only a minority of members adopted it because they thought it would raise industrial costs.

- **Health** The Health Committee, which later became the World Health Organization, worked hard to defeat the dreaded disease leprosy. It started the global campaign to exterminate mosquitoes, which greatly reduced cases of malaria and yellow fever in later decades. Even the USSR, which was otherwise opposed to the League, took Health Committee advice on preventing plague in Siberia.

- **Transport** The League made recommendations on marking shipping lanes and produced an international highway code for road users.

- **Social problems** The League blacklisted four large German, Dutch, French and Swiss companies which were involved in the illegal drug trade. It brought about the freeing of 200,000 slaves in British-owned Sierra Leone. It organised raids against slave owners and traders in Burma. It challenged the use of forced labour to build the Tanganyika railway in Africa, where the death rate among the African workers was a staggering 50 per cent. League pressure brought this down to four per cent, which it said was 'a much more acceptable figure'.

Even in the areas where it could not remove social injustice the League kept careful records of what was going on and provided information on problems such as drug trafficking, prostitution and slavery.

Agree-o-meter

'The League of Nations was doomed from the start'. How far do you agree?



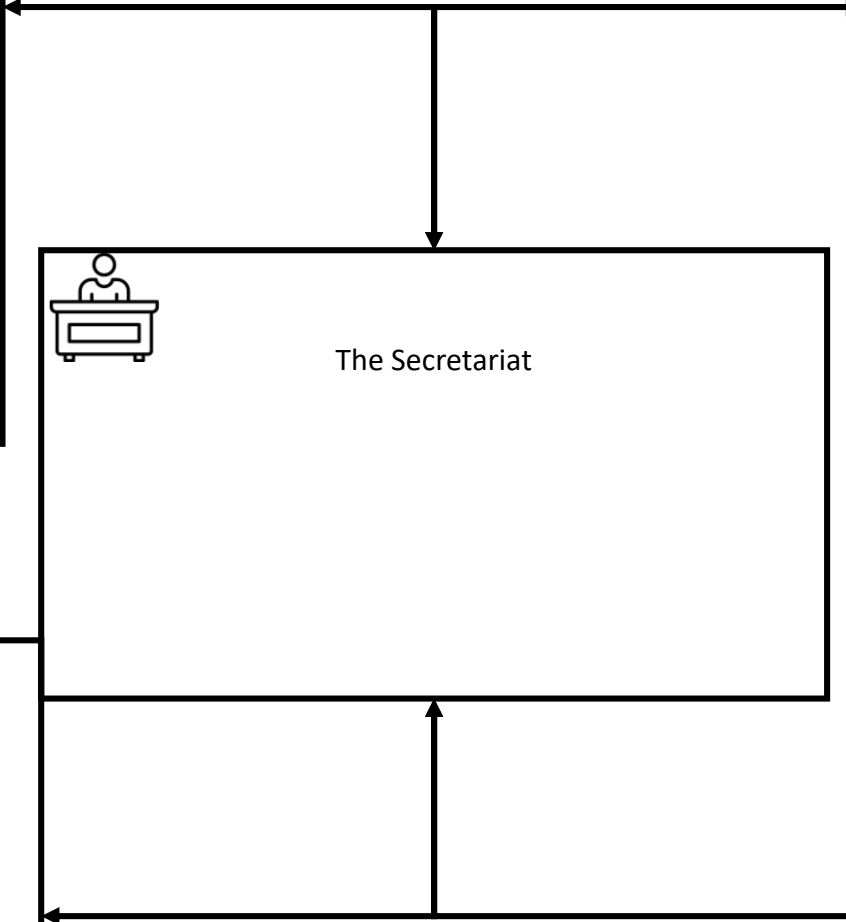
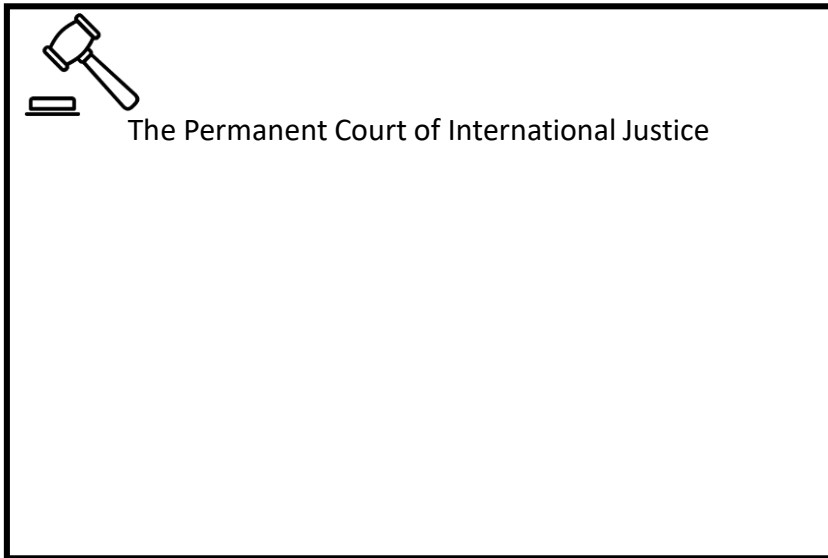
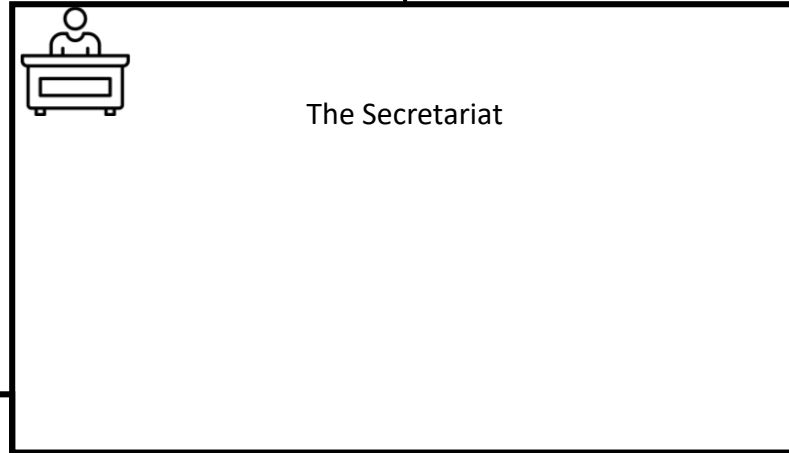
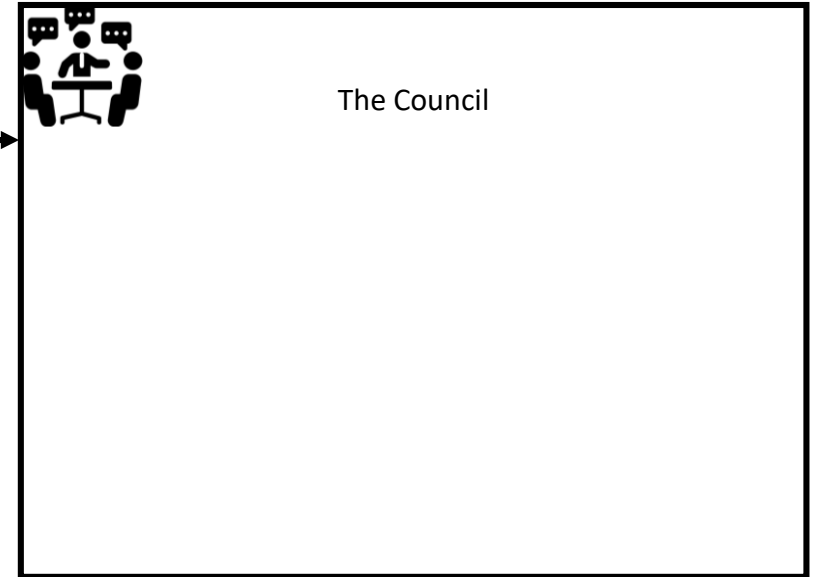
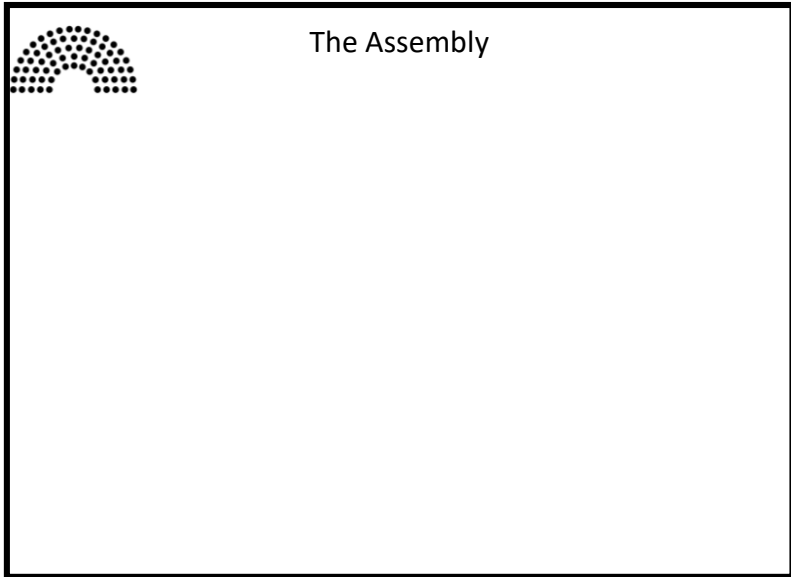
To a certain extent

Be prepared to explain!

Completely disagree



Agree





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