

Optimised Study Guide — Attempts to Make Peace

Optimised, exam-focused study guide for attempts to make peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict (Unit 4, Elective 3, Component C03-U4E3). Grounded in the 2020–2025 SCSA exams and marking keys, especially the 2021 Q20 examining the attempts to settle conflict between Arabs and Israelis. Covers UN Resolution 242 and 'land for peace', the Camp David Accords 1978 and Egypt-Israel Treaty 1979, the Oslo Accords 1993–95, the Hebron Agreement 1996 and the failed 2000 Camp David Summit, the recurring sticking points, and why peace has proved elusive. Leads with exam priorities and marking-key expectations.

Alongside the wars runs a parallel story: repeated, partial, fragile attempts to make peace. The elective is literally titled "the struggle for peace," so this topic is central. The skill is to assess *why* each attempt achieved what it did — and why none has produced a final settlement.

The marking-key steer. The 2021 essay — *"Examine the attempts to settle conflict between Arabs and Israelis"* — surveys the major efforts and, crucially, weighs each one's **"varying degrees of success."** The marking key flags the recurring flaw: agreements that **excluded or failed to consult the Palestinians** (242's silence on them; Camp David being "written without consulting Palestinians"). The strongest answers judge each attempt's success *and* its limitation.

How this content is examined

- **Essays.** Examine/assess the attempts to settle the conflict; evaluate the success of the peace process; the role of specific agreements or leaders.
- **Source analysis.** UNSCR 242, the Oslo Accords and Camp David documents recur — know their terms and their gaps.

Answer the verb. Examine the attempts = investigate each effort and judge its degree of success. A strong answer is chronological *and* evaluative — each agreement gets a verdict, not just a description.

1. UN Resolution 242 (1967) — the framework

- After the Six-Day War, 242 set out the **"land for peace"** principle: Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories in exchange for recognition and secure borders.

- **Success:** it became the foundational basis for later treaties.
- **Limitation:** it referred to refugees but **not to Palestinians as a national group**, and the meaning of "occupied territories" stayed disputed.

2. The Camp David Accords (1978) and Egypt–Israel Treaty (1979)

- Brokered by US President Carter between **Sadat (Egypt) and Begin (Israel)**: Egypt recognised Israel; Israel returned the Sinai.
- **Success:** the first peace between Israel and a major Arab state — a genuine breakthrough (it held).
- **Limitation:** the parallel "framework for peace" was **written without consulting the Palestinians** and was rejected at the UN; Sadat was later assassinated for making peace.

3. The Oslo Accords (1993 & 1995) — the high-water mark

- Secret talks produced **mutual recognition** between Israel and the PLO, a planned Israeli withdrawal from parts of the territories, and a **Palestinian Authority** to govern the West Bank and Gaza, with final-status issues left for later.
- **Success:** the most significant step ever toward a two-state solution; direct Israeli–Palestinian negotiation.
- **Limitation:** extremists on both sides wrecked it — an Israeli zealot **assassinated PM Rabin (1995)**; Hamas and Islamic Jihad escalated attacks; Israel then elected the hardline **Netanyahu**. Final status was never reached.

4. Later efforts

- **The Hebron Agreement (1996)** handed most of Hebron to Palestinian control (with a residual Israeli presence) — a partial implementation of Oslo.
- **The Camp David Summit (2000)** (Clinton, Barak, Arafat) failed to reach a final settlement, and the Second Intifada followed.

5. Why peace has proved so elusive

- Core sticking points recur: the **Occupied Territories and settlements**, the status of **Jerusalem**, the **right of return** of refugees, security, and the **exclusion of Palestinian voices** from early deals.
- **Spoilers:** extremists and rejectionists on both sides repeatedly derailed momentum (Rabin's assassination is the classic example).

6. Historical perspectives

- **Progress or illusion?** Did Oslo represent real progress toward two states, or a process doomed by unresolved core issues and bad faith?
- **Bilateral vs international:** were US-brokered bilateral deals more effective than UN frameworks — or did sidelining the UN and the Palestinians guarantee fragility?

7. Recurring exam question patterns & what high answers do

- **"Examine the attempts to settle the conflict."** High answers: go through 242 → Camp David → Oslo → later efforts, giving each a verdict on success and limitation, and identify the recurring flaw (excluding Palestinians; spoilers).
- **"Evaluate the success of the peace process."** High answers: weigh genuine breakthroughs (Egypt–Israel, mutual recognition) against the failure to reach final status.

Recall self-test. Can you:

- State the "land for peace" principle of 242 and its key limitation?
- Explain the Camp David Accords/1979 treaty — the breakthrough and the Palestinian exclusion?
- Explain the Oslo Accords — mutual recognition, the PA, and why they unravelled (Rabin, Hamas, Netanyahu)?
- Name the Hebron Agreement and the failed 2000 Camp David Summit?
- List the recurring sticking points (territories/settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, security)?
- Argue both "real progress" and "doomed process" interpretations of the peace efforts?