

Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941–91:

Answers

1 Early tension between East and West

1a Explain one consequence of the Yalta Conference in 1945.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Yalta Conference in 1945.
2	3–4	Features of the Yalta Conference in 1945 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Yalta Conference in 1945.

An example of a Level 1 answer

One consequence of the Yalta Conference was that it was agreed that most countries in Eastern Europe would come under the Soviet sphere of influence at the end of the Second World War.

An example of a Level 2 answer

One consequence of the Yalta Conference was that ‘the Big Three’ – the USA, Britain and the USSR – agreed that most countries in Eastern Europe would come under the Soviet sphere of influence at the end of the Second World War. This led to the creation of the Eastern bloc, as Stalin gradually ensured that enough people in the governments of the countries of Eastern Europe were communist and loyal to him. The creation of the Eastern bloc was a key reason for the start of the Cold War, so the Cold War can be seen as a consequence of the Yalta Conference.

1b Explain **one** consequence of the Potsdam Conference in 1945.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Potsdam Conference in 1945.
2	3–4	Features of the Potsdam Conference in 1945 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Potsdam Conference in 1945.

An example of a Level 1 answer

One consequence of the Potsdam Conference was that the USA and the USSR mistrusted each other more and more. Because they had begun to fall out and disagree with each other, Stalin and the US President became more and more wary of each other.

An example of a Level 2 answer

One consequence of the Potsdam Conference was that the Grand Alliance established during the Second World War between the USSR, the USA, and Britain had disintegrated. That was because of increased tensions between the new US President Truman and the Soviet leader Stalin. The day before the conference, the USA successfully tested their new powerful atomic bomb. The USA did not inform the Soviets about this new powerful weapon, and that clearly caused increased tension and mistrust between the two superpowers. So, a big consequence of Potsdam was to turn these once allies into superpower rivals.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events leading up to the Potsdam Conference (1945). (8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- establishment of Soviet sphere of influence in Eastern Europe
- development of the atomic bomb

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the key events leading up to the Potsdam Conference.
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative and it is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the key events leading up to the Potsdam Conference.
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the key events leading up to the Potsdam Conference.

An example of a Level 1 answer

There were several key events leading up to the Potsdam Conference. One of them was the establishment of a sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. Here, the Soviets established some influence over countries in Europe and the USSR helped them become more powerful. The USA now had developed an atomic bomb, which made them more powerful, too.

An example of a Level 2 answer

In the months leading up to the Potsdam Conference, Stalin took control over Eastern Europe. The Soviet army helped to create a communist dictatorship across Eastern Europe. This increased tension because the USA and Britain became concerned that these countries were being taken over by the Soviets. Tension was further increased when President Truman became leader of the USA. This increased tension between Stalin and Truman because they didn't like each other since Truman didn't like communists. Then the USA successfully tested their

new atomic weapon. This test made the USA feel more powerful than the Soviets, because the USA had a weapon that Stalin didn't have. All of this led to an increase in tension between the Soviets and the USA just before the Potsdam Conference.

An example of a Level 3 answer

In the months leading up to the Potsdam Conference, Stalin established a sphere of influence across Eastern Europe. Once the Red Army had freed a country from Nazi control, the army stayed and helped to create a communist dictatorship in that country. This increased tension, because the USA and Britain became concerned that free and fair elections, agreed at Yalta, were not actually taking place. Tension was further increased when President Roosevelt died and was replaced with President Truman. Truman was much more anti-communist than Roosevelt and this increased the atmosphere of mistrust between the Soviets and the USA, who had fundamentally different world views. To make matters worse, the day before the conference, the USA successfully tested a new atomic weapon. This gave the USA a significant military advantage over the USSR. It meant the USA didn't need Soviet help in defeating Japan, and it made Stalin worried that the USA now had the upper hand on the USSR. Since the Nazis had been defeated and with the likely defeat of Japan, there was little motivation for the superpowers to work together. This meant that relationships at the Potsdam Conference might break down.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the 'percentages agreement' for the start of the Cold War. (8)
- The importance of Stalin's reluctance to hold free and fair elections in Eastern Europe for the start of the Cold War. (8)
- The importance of the USA's development of the atomic bomb for the start of the Cold War. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the 'percentages agreement' for the start of the Cold War.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the 'percentages agreement' for the start of the Cold War.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the 'percentages agreement' for the start of the Cold War.

An example of a Level 1 answer to the first bullet point

The percentages agreements were important for the start of the Cold War because they increased tension between the USA, Britain, and the Soviets. The agreements fixed percentages between the two sides and this caused conflict and friction later on.

An example of a Level 2 answer to the first bullet point

The percentages agreements were important in helping to start the Cold War. Stalin and Churchill agreed in private that Eastern Europe should be divided between the USSR and the West. This was important because the Soviets felt they had a right to make half of Europe communist. In Stalin's mind he wanted to create a communist buffer between the USSR and the rest of Europe. He used his troops, which were in Eastern Europe, to help these countries become communist. This created a division in Europe between those who were communist and those countries who were capitalist.

An example of a Level 3 answer to the first bullet point

The percentages agreements were important in helping to start the Cold War. In 1944, Stalin and Churchill met and agreed in private that Eastern Europe should be divided between the USSR and the West. They wrote their agreement on a table napkin. This was important because it gave the Soviets the red light to take control of Eastern European countries and turn them communist. It was important in increasing tension because it meant that Stalin was able to ignore the agreements he made at Yalta, where he said that countries in Eastern Europe would be allowed to hold free and fair elections. In his mind he wanted to create a communist buffer between the USSR and the capitalist West. Therefore, he allowed his Red Army troops to remain in Eastern Europe after they had defeated the Nazis. These troops then often helped the local communist parties take power. This was really important in increasing tension, because he was drawing dividing lines in Europe making the East communist while the West remained capitalist. All of this increased tension between the two superpowers.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of Stalin's reluctance to hold free and fair elections in Eastern Europe for the start of the Cold War.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of Stalin's reluctance to hold free and fair elections in Eastern Europe for the start of the Cold War.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of Stalin's reluctance to hold free and fair elections in Eastern Europe for the start of the Cold War.

Relevant points that could be included

- The failure to hold free elections meant that the US and British governments felt that people in these countries were being denied the right to choose their own governments. This was a right or an ideal upheld by democratic nations and this denial increased tension.
- This led to the creation of Soviet satellite states and created a divided Europe where the East was communist and the West was capitalist.
- This led to the Cold War. Eastern Europe was now communist, and by 1946 the USA had declared its commitment to stopping communism.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the USA's development of the atomic bomb for the start of the Cold War.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the USA's development of the atomic bomb for the start of the Cold War.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the USA's development of the atomic bomb for the start of the Cold War.

Relevant points that could be included

- Truman believed that by having the atomic bomb it would give the USA the upper hand in negotiations with the USSR. This increased tension between the USSR and the USA after July 1945.
- The USA's development of the atomic bomb increased Stalin's determination to ensure Eastern Europe became communist and protected the USSR from the West.
- The development of the atomic bomb created the beginning of the arms race, because Soviet scientists raced to develop their own nuclear weapon and catch up with US military innovation.

2 The development of the Cold War

1a Explain **one** consequence of the use of the atomic bombs against Japan in August 1945. (4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the use of the atomic bomb against Japan in August 1945.
2	3–4	Features of the use of the atomic bomb against Japan in August 1945 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the use of the atomic bomb against Japan in August 1945.

Relevant point that could be included

- It increased tensions between the superpowers. The USA demonstrated that it was determined to be the most powerful post-war country, and the USSR believed the USA could not be trusted and was now a threat.

1b Explain **one** consequence of the creation of the Soviet Satellite states in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1948. (4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the creation of the Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1948.
2	3–4	Features of the creation of the Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1948 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the creation of the Soviet Satellite states in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1948.

Relevant point that could be included

- This led to the Cold War. Eastern Europe was now communist, and by 1946 the USA had declared its commitment to stopping communism.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events leading to the creation of Comecon by Stalin in 1949.

(8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Marshall Plan
- dollar imperialism

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the key events leading up to the creation of Comecon by Stalin in 1949.
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative and is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the key events leading up to the creation of Comecon by Stalin in 1949.
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the key events leading up to the creation of Comecon by Stalin in 1949.

Relevant points that could be included

- President Truman said that communism posed a serious threat to the USA and the rest of the world. He also stated that communism must be contained and kept where it was in Eastern Europe. This became known as the Truman Doctrine.

- US Secretary of State George Marshall gave billions of dollars into rebuilding Europe. This financial package was known as the Marshall Plan. This was partly because the USA wanted to contain communism within Eastern Europe. The Marshall Plan was an economic policy.
- Stalin saw the Marshall Plan as an example of dollar imperialism by the USA – the USA using its wealth to secure capitalism and spread capitalism around the world. Stalin made it clear that Eastern European countries should not accept Marshall Aid and therefore he set up Comecon in which countries in the East would work together and share resources.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the Potsdam Conference for increasing tension between the superpowers by 1949. (8)
- The importance of the Truman Doctrine for increased tension between the Superpowers by 1948. (8)
- The importance of the Berlin Blockade for the creation of NATO. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Potsdam Conference for increasing tension between the superpowers by 1949.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Potsdam Conference for increasing tension between the superpowers by 1949.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Potsdam Conference for increasing tension between the superpowers by 1949.

Relevant points that could be included

- Truman became US President just before the conference and hated communism more than Roosevelt; therefore tensions increased after Potsdam.

- At Potsdam, the divisions in Germany and Berlin were approved. This led to increased tension in Berlin between East and West, eventually resulting in the Berlin blockade and airlift.
- Potsdam and the agreements and disagreements here must be contextualised by the development of the atomic bomb. Truman felt he had the upper hand in negotiations, and this led to development of the arms race because the USSR tried to catch up with the USA's nuclear capability.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Truman Doctrine for increased tension between the superpowers by 1948.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Truman Doctrine for increased tension between the Superpowers by 1948.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Truman Doctrine for increased tension between the superpowers by 1948.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Truman Doctrine was important in increasing tension between the superpowers because it demonstrated that the USA was openly prepared to stop the spread of communism in Europe. This policy was seen as a threat to the USSR and the communist satellite states.
- The Truman Doctrine was a political statement and led to the creation of the Marshall Plan, which gave billions of dollars to countries in Europe who opposed communism and wanted to rebuild themselves after the Second World War.
- The money from the Marshall Plan seeped into West Berlin and was seen by the communist East. This caused resentment, because people in the East saw the impact of capitalism.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Berlin Blockade for the creation of NATO.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Berlin Blockade for the creation of NATO.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Berlin Blockade for the creation of NATO.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Berlin Blockade had pushed the USSR and the Western countries to the brink of war and made relations worse than they had ever been.
- The USA feared that this tension might spread further across Europe and was still worried about ensuring that Western Europe remained democratic rather than communist.
- NATO was created during/just before the end of the Berlin Blockade in April 1939 by the USA and Western European countries. This commitment meant that if one Western power was attacked, that would be seen as an attack on all members. Clearly the blockade had worried the West, and NATO was the response.

3 The Cold War intensifies

1a Explain **one** consequence of Khrushchev's policy of destalinisation in Hungary.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of Khrushchev's policy of destalinisation in Hungary.
2	3–4	Features of the creation of the Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1948 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of Khrushchev's policy of destalinisation in Hungary.

Relevant point that could be included

- It was seen, by students in Hungary, as an opportunity to bring reforms and led to the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.

1b Explain **one** consequence of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.
2	3–4	Features of the creation of the Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1948 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.

Relevant point that could be included

- Khrushchev had shown that, despite destalinisation, he was willing to do anything to ensure that the Eastern Bloc remained under Soviet control.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the arms race between 1945 and 1952. (8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- USA developing the atomic bomb
- Joseph Stalin

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative, but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the key events leading up to the arms race, 1945–52.
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative, and it is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the key events in the arms race, 1945–52.
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the key events in the arms race between 1945 and 1952.

Relevant points that could be included

- The USA tested and then used the atomic bomb in July and August of 1945 without telling the USSR that they had developed this new powerful weapon. This gave the USA the upper hand in Soviet–US relations and negotiations at Potsdam and beyond. That increased tension between the two superpowers.
- Encouraged by the USA’s possession of a nuclear weapon, Josef Stalin was determined to build his own atomic weapon and catch up with the USA. He pushed his scientists and engineers, and in 1949 the USSR detonated its first atom bomb.

- This increased tension further because the USA wanted to stay ahead in the arms race. They accelerated the arms race by developing a more powerful nuclear bomb in 1952: the hydrogen bomb. This led the USSR to do the same within a year.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the Yalta Conference in 1945 for increasing tensions between the USA and the USSR. (8)
- The importance of the Long and Novikov telegrams for US–Soviet relations. (8)
- The importance of the creation of the Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe for East– West relations. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Yalta Conference in 1945 for increasing tensions between the USA and the USSR.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Yalta Conference in 1945 for increasing tensions between the USA and the USSR.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Yalta Conference in 1945 for increasing tensions between the USA and the USSR.

Relevant points that could be included

- Although the meeting at Yalta was generally positive, the USSR disagreed with the West about the type of government that would take control of Poland. Stalin also wanted to control the land in Poland. Yalta was therefore important in increasing tension over who controlled and governed Poland.
- Yalta also increased the likelihood of future conflict over Eastern Europe and who governed the countries there. Yalta led to Stalin’s ‘sphere of influence’ across Eastern Europe at the end of the war in Europe; the Red Army set up communist dictatorships in the countries they ‘liberated’ from the Nazis.
- The USA and Britain became increasingly concerned that the ‘free elections’ agreed at Yalta were not taking place.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Long and Novikov telegrams for US–Soviet relations.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Long and Novikov telegrams for US–Soviet relations.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Long and Novikov telegrams for US–Soviet relations.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Long Telegram was sent by George Kennan, who was second-in-command at the Moscow Embassy. He believed that the USSR was determined to spread communism and its influence across the world; the USSR was an enemy of the USA; any attempt in co-operation between the two sides was doomed to failure.
- Nikolai Novikov, the Soviet Ambassador in the USA, sent a telegram to Moscow. In this telegram, he said that he thought: the USA wanted to spread its capitalist influence as far as possible; it was an economic superpower; the USA should not be trusted.
- The Long Telegram and the Novikov Telegrams clearly drove a wedge between the two sides and can be seen as examples of extreme mistrust.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the creation of satellite states for East–West relations.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the creation of satellite states for East–West relations.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the creation of satellite states for East–West relations.

Relevant points that could be included

- Between 1945 and 1948, Stalin gradually ensured that enough people in the governments of the countries of Eastern Europe were communist and loyal to him. These countries became the USSR's satellite states; they seemed like independent countries but were dominated by the USSR.
- The creation of the satellite states was a key reason for the start of the Cold War. Churchill warned of this in his 'iron curtain' speech, where he stated that an iron curtain had descended across Europe.
- The creation of the iron curtain led directly to the USA committing itself to stopping the rise of communism, as shown by the Truman Doctrine. Furthermore, the USA was so committed that they spent billions of dollars supporting European countries who were not communist via the Marshall Plan.

4 Cold War crises: Berlin, 1958–61

1a Explain **one** consequence of the ultimatum Khrushchev gave the West in 1958, to withdraw US, British, and French forces from West Berlin within six months. (4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the ultimatum Khrushchev gave the West in 1958.
2	3–4	Features of the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the ultimatum Khrushchev gave the West in 1958.

Relevant point that could be included

- It caused tension when the West refused to withdraw, and the tension increased during 1959 to 1961 as the USA and USSR failed to resolve the issue at summit meetings, leading to the building of the Berlin Wall.

1b Explain **one** consequence of the building of Berlin Wall in 1961. (4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.
2	3–4	Features of the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

Relevant point that could be included

- It appears that the Berlin Wall was a propaganda victory for the West, because fencing in East Berliners was seen as a sign that the Soviet system had failed.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key developments in relations between the USA and the USSR between 1945 and 1949. (8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Potsdam Conference
- Berlin Blockade

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative, but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the key developments in relations between the USA and the USSR between 1945 and 1949.
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative, and it is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the key developments in relations between the USA and the USSR between 1945 and 1949.
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the key developments in relations between the USA and the USSR between 1945 and 1949.

Relevant points that could be included

- The use of the first atomic bomb gave the USA the upper hand in negotiations with the USSR at Potsdam. Tensions were increased at this conference and the Grand Alliance fell apart. Now the USA and the USSR were at odds with each other and an arms race between the two superpowers started.
- The Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan increased tension, because the USA openly stated that they wanted to limit the spread of communism and were prepared to pay money to countries in Europe that didn't become communist.
- Tensions mounted after Potsdam over Berlin and its division between the Allies. This increased when the USA and Britain met and agreed to merge their two zones and introduce a new currency. Stalin responded to this situation by blockading Berlin and therefore increasing tension.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the Paris summit of 1960 for relations between the USA and USSR. (8)
- The importance of the refugee crisis for the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. (8)
- The importance of the building of the Berlin Wall for relations between the superpowers. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Paris summit of 1960 for relations between the USA and USSR.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Paris summit of 1960 for relations between the USA and USSR.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Paris summit of 1960 for relations between the USA and USSR.

Relevant points that could be included

- This summit was important for causing tension, because the main issue to resolve was Berlin; however, no progress was being made on this resolution. In fact, Berlin had also been a sticking point at the previous summit in Geneva in 1959.
- Tensions increased just before the Paris summit when a US spy-plane was shot down by the USSR while spying for the USA.
- At the meeting, tension increased when Eisenhower refused to apologise for spying and Khrushchev stormed out of the meeting, again leaving the issue of Berlin unresolved.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the refugee crisis for the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the refugee crisis for the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the refugee crisis for the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

Relevant points that could be included

- 100 000 refugees crossed from East to West Berlin between 1955 and 1960. Many of these defectors were well educated people, such as scientists and engineers, who performed important jobs, and the USSR feared a 'brain drain'. This possibility angered Khrushchev.
- As a result of the refugee crisis, Khrushchev described Berlin as 'a fishbone stuck in our throat' and gave the West an ultimatum in 1958: withdraw US, British, and French forces from West Berlin within six months. This caused tension when the West refused to withdraw.
- At a summit meeting in Vienna, Austria, in June 1961, Khrushchev re-issued the Berlin ultimatum. He was confident in success, because the USA had recently been humiliated when a US-backed invasion of communist Cuba failed; Khrushchev also faced a new and inexperienced US President in John F. Kennedy. However, Kennedy didn't back down and the Western powers refused to leave West Berlin; this standoff led to the USSR/East Germany building the wall.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the building of the Berlin Wall for relations between the superpowers.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the building of the Berlin Wall for relations between the superpowers.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the building of the Berlin Wall for relations between the superpowers.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Berlin Wall had a negative effect on relations between the superpowers in the short term and gave the USA some positive propaganda. For example, when US President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin in 1963, 1.5 million people lined the streets to see him.
- US President Kennedy used his visit to increase tension by making a speech criticising the building of the wall and the communist system in general. This was important, because it was an example of the West showing how building a wall and fencing in East Berliners was a sign the Soviet system had failed.
- Although President Kennedy was angered by the wall's construction, he realised that it had decreased tension in East Germany/with the USSR and thereby avoided a war.

5 Cold War crises: Cuba

1a Explain **one** consequence of the Truman Doctrine.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Truman Doctrine.
2	3–4	Features of the Truman Doctrine are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Truman Doctrine.

Relevant point that could be included

- One consequence of the Truman Doctrine was that Stalin created Cominform, the Communist Information Bureau, bringing together the countries of the Eastern bloc to form one group that followed the policies set by Stalin in Moscow.

1b Explain one consequence of the Marshall Plan.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Marshall Plan.
2	3–4	Features of the Marshall Plan are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Marshall Plan.

Relevant point that could be included

- Stalin created Comecon (the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) as an alternative to Marshall Aid. He made it clear that Eastern European countries should not accept Marshall Aid and, instead, should sign up to Comecon.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Bay of Pigs incident, 1961.

(8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- President Kennedy
- The exiles

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative, but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the main events in the Bay of Pigs incident, 1961.
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative, and it is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the main events in the Bay of Pigs incident, 1961.
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the main events in the Bay of Pigs incident, 1961.

Relevant points that could be included

- With a communist country so close to the US coast, President Kennedy felt he had to act and intervene in Cuba to stop it being heavily influenced by communism.
- The USA's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) drew up a plan to help Castro's exiled opponents re-take Cuba. The plan was for the exiles from Cuba to land at the Bay of Pigs. Under US airforce cover, the exiles would march 70km to the capital and take Havana, gaining support on the way.

- Just before the invasion, President Kennedy withdrew support of the US airforce, because he was worried about international reaction. The invasion went ahead on 17 April 1961. Without aircover the exiles were left exposed; 200 were killed and many more were captured. No Cubans supported the invasion. Kennedy was humiliated; he had been shown to be willing to break international law to serve US foreign policy aims.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the Cuban Revolution for superpower relations. (8)
- The importance of the Bay of Pigs incident (1961) for East–West relations. (8)
- The importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) for reducing tensions between the superpowers. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Cuban Revolution for superpower relations.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Cuban Revolution for superpower relations.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Cuban Revolution for superpower relations.

Relevant points that could be included

- Castro, the new Cuban leader, was keen to work with the US government and visited the USA shortly after becoming leader in 1959. However, US President Eisenhower refused to meet him; this refusal increased tension by pushing the Cubans towards working more closely with the Soviets.
- Castro worked more closely with the USSR, who provided oil and loans to the Cubans. This had a negative impact on superpower relations.
- The USA reacted negatively to the new relationship between Cuba and the USSR by placing an embargo on Cuba. This increased tension, as the Cubans were forced to work even more closely with the USSR.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Bay of Pigs incident (1961) for East–West relations.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Bay of Pigs incident (1961) for East–West relations.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Bay of Pigs incident (1961) for East–West relations.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Bay of Pigs incident worsened East–West relations, because the USA’s involvement in trying to end communist rule in Cuba only succeeded in pushing Cuba closer to the USSR.
- Castro’s victory in the incident made the USA look weak and unable to defeat a small neighbour that was supportive of communism. The USA was humiliated and would clearly want to make up for this disaster in the future.
- This failure meant that President Kennedy was willing to be tougher when dealing with communism and the USSR in the future. This was seen during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, when relationships between the USSR and USA reached an all-time low.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) for reducing tensions between the superpowers.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) for reducing tensions between the superpowers.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) for reducing tensions between the superpowers.

Relevant points that could be included

- While the missile crisis marked a moment of high tension between the USSR and the USA, tensions between the superpowers were ultimately reduced, because a hotline was created to allow a line of communication for both sides to talk to avoid nuclear war.
- Having been brought to the brink of nuclear war during the crisis, both the USA and the USSR realised that the arms race needed limiting. The subsequent Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 therefore allowed nuclear weapons testing only underground.
- In the short term, the Cuban Missile Crisis also led to the removal of US nuclear missiles in Turkey and Italy. This reduced tension between the superpowers; however, the removal of the missiles was kept secret, so Khrushchev could not claim any credit for this victory.

6 Cold War crises: the Prague Spring

1a Explain one consequence of Alexander Dubček becoming Czechoslovakian leader in 1968. (4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of Alexander Dubček becoming Czechoslovakian leader in 1968.
2	3–4	Features of Soviet control of Eastern Europe are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of Alexander Dubček becoming Czechoslovakian leader in 1968.

Relevant point that could be included

- It led to the Prague Spring: Dubček introduced reforms which Moscow allowed to go ahead, which led to more reforms. It ultimately led to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, which ended the Prague Spring.

1b Explain **one** consequence of the Prague Spring. (4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Prague Spring.
2	3–4	Features of Soviet control of Eastern Europe are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Prague Spring.

Relevant point that could be included

- China was the most powerful communist country outside of Eastern Europe. China reacted negatively to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and relations between the USSR and China were damaged by the Prague Spring. The Chinese claimed that the Soviets were abandoning communism.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Prague Spring (1968).

(8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Warsaw Pact Military exercises
- Soviet invasion of Prague

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative, but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the main events in the Prague Spring (1968).
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative, and it is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the main events in the Prague Spring (1968).
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the Prague Spring (1968).

Relevant points that could be included

- In January 1968, Czechoslovakia's unpopular communist leader Novotný was forced to resign. He was replaced as leader by Alexander Dubček. Dubček introduced reforms, which were called 'socialism with a human face' – a form of communism that was considered kinder to the people. The reforms included freedom of speech and the freedom of movement.

- The Prague Spring represented the first real challenge to Leonid Brezhnev, the new leader of the USSR, and to other Eastern Bloc leaders, because the ideas were inspiring students to protest. To try and stop the ideas spreading, in June 1968, Warsaw Pact countries choose Czechoslovakia's border as a site for Warsaw Pact military exercises. This choice was designed to intimidate Dubček; it didn't work.
- This then led to the Soviets attempting to end the reforms by sending in Soviet tanks, taking control of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, and ending the Prague Spring.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the policy of destalinisation for US–Soviet relations. (8)
- The importance of the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction for relations between the superpowers. (8)
- The importance of the Hungarian uprising of 1956 for East–West relations. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the policy of destalinisation for US–Soviet relations.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the policy of destalinisation for US–Soviet relations.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the policy of destalinisation for US–Soviet relations

Relevant points that could be included

- Stalin died in March 1953 and was succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev. Khrushchev denounced Stalin's regime as cruel, and announced that a process of 'destalinisation' would begin. This included ending Stalin's harshest policies, removing statues and images of Stalin, reducing the size of the secret police, and increasing the number of consumer goods available in the USSR. The West hoped relations between the two superpowers would improve as a result.
- The policy of destalinisation was important in some ways, because it led to talks between Khrushchev and US President Eisenhower in 1959.

- However, the existence of the arms race, the creation of the Warsaw Pact in 1955 and the fear of communism in the USA during this period suggests that the importance of destalinisation should not be overestimated.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction for relations between the superpowers.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction for relations between the superpowers.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction for relations between the superpowers.

Relevant points that could be included

- Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) was the knowledge that launching a nuclear weapon would lead to retaliation and, consequently, the destruction of both the USSR and USA. By the 1950s, both sides recognised that nuclear war would inevitably lead to MAD.
- The importance of MAD can be seen by the fact that despite the increasing number of weapons on each side, not a single nuclear weapon was launched during the Cold War.
- Despite MAD, there were a few occasions when nuclear war looked possible: one crisis point came in 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The existence of stockpiles of nuclear weapons also meant that relations between the two sides were tense.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Hungarian uprising (1956) for East–West relations.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Hungarian uprising (1956) for East–West relations.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Hungarian uprising (1956) for East–West relations.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Hungarian uprising of 1956 saw Nagy call for far-reaching reforms in Hungary, such as freedom of speech and of the press. The uprising led to the USSR sending in tanks and stopping the reforms.
- Despite public sympathy in the West, Western governments worried that supporting the Hungarians and sending support would lead to increased tension with the USSR.
- It was important for the West to see that despite destalinisation, Khrushchev was willing to use force to stop Hungary from introducing Western-style reforms and to ensure that the Eastern Bloc remained under Soviet control. Furthermore, it was important for the USSR to note that the USA would not interfere in the Eastern Bloc.

7 Changing relationship between the superpowers

1a Explain **one** consequence of the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.
2	3–4	Features of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.

Relevant point that could be included

- Castro had won a great victory, but he knew that the USA would not give up and Cuba remained vulnerable. As a result, the Bay of Pigs invasion pushed Cuba closer to the USSR and tensions between the superpowers increased.

1b Explain **one** consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.
2	3–4	Features of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

Relevant point that could be included

- Both the USA and USSR realised the arms race needed to slow down. They agreed on a number of key treaties to limit nuclear weapons, for example the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the main events in superpower relations during Détente, between 1972 and 1979. (8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Vietnam
- SALT treaties

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative, but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the main events in superpower relations during Détente, 1972–9.
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative, and it is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the main events in superpower relations during Détente, 1972–9.
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the main events in superpower relations during Détente, 1972–9.

Relevant points that could be included

- By the early 1970s, the war in Vietnam showed that nuclear weapons did not help the winning of conventional wars. The war in Vietnam was also expensive for the USA and caused protests at home and abroad. So, reducing Cold War tensions would help the USA recover.

- The relationship between the two main communist powers – China and the USSR – soured in this period, and the USA was trying to build trust with the Chinese. This worried the USSR, who wanted to secure good terms with the rest of the world.
- Brezhnev, leader of the USSR, and Richard Nixon, US President from 1969–74, met several times and helped Détente begin. The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) was signed in 1972 between the USSR and the USA. It agreed to ban ballistic missiles and reduce the number of anti-ballistic missile sites. However, the agreement allowed both sides to keep their stockpiles of existing weapons.
- Détente was also evident at the Helsinki Accords of 1975 in Finland, where 35 countries, including the USSR and the USA, agreed to improve human rights, allowing freedom of speech, press, religion, and movement.
- Even though SALT had been agreed between the USA and the USSR in 1972, within a few years its terms were out of date so more talks began. By 1979, SALT II had been negotiated between Brezhnev and US President Jimmy Carter. However, the US Senate refused to ratify the treaty, because they didn't trust the USSR. Soviet leaders also refused to approve SALT II. Therefore, Détente was in serious trouble by the end of 1979.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the Helsinki Accords for relations between the two superpowers. (8)
- The importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for East–West relations. (8)
- The importance of Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative for relations between the USA and the USSR in the 1980s. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Helsinki Accords for relations between the two superpowers.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the Helsinki Accords for relations between the two superpowers.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the Helsinki Accords for relations between the two superpowers.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Helsinki Accords was an important symbol of the thawing of relations between the USSR and the USA during the early 1970s; that was known as Détente. After 25 years of the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, both sides saw the need to work more closely together.
- These human rights meetings improved relations between East and West, as 35 countries came together to improve human rights and support the principle of free speech. This was hugely important to improving relations between the superpowers.
- At Helsinki, Western powers including the USA recognised the borders of Eastern Europe, created by the USSR in 1945. Countries from East and West agreed to work more closely together and to co-operate on scientific and economic projects. Clearly, this cooperation was important for improved superpower relationships during this period.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for East–West relations.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for East–West relations.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for East–West relations.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan soured relations and led to an end of Détente. US President Carter issued the Carter Doctrine, which increased tension by sending US troops and navy ships into the Middle East. In addition, the USA offered military aid to countries that bordered Afghanistan.
- The USA sent funding to the Mujahideen who were fighting the USSR. This soured relations between the USA and the USSR further and was seen by some as marking the start of the ‘Second Cold War’.
- The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan led directly to the boycott of the Moscow Olympics of 1980 by the USA and other Western powers, and then to the boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics by the USSR and Warsaw Pact nations in 1984.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of Reagan’s Strategic Defence Initiative for relations between the USA and the USSR in the 1980s.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of Reagan’s Strategic Defence Initiative for relations between the USA and the USSR in the 1980s.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of Reagan’s Strategic Defence Initiative for relations between the USA and the USSR in the 1980s.

Relevant points that could be included

- Reagan announced the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) in 1983, which became known as the Star Wars programme. The idea was to create a system that detects and destroys missiles using laser technology before they could reach the USA. SDI was never completed but its idea led to tension between both sides.
- Reagan’s Star Wars programme was a key part of starting a ‘Second Cold War’. This, in turn, created a new arms race, which the USSR could not afford, and increased tensions between the superpowers.
- The importance of the SDI could be linked to the new Soviet leader Gorbachev realising that the Soviet economy could not cope with a new arms race and therefore putting in place policies to improve relationships with the West, such as *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

8 The collapse of the USSR

1a Explain one consequence of Détente between the USA and the USSR in the 1970s.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of Détente between the USA and the USSR in the 1970s.
2	3–4	Features of Détente between the USA and the USSR in the 1970s are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of Détente between the USA and the USSR in the 1970s.

Relevant points that could be included

- It led to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in 1972, where the USSR and USA agreed to freeze the number of submarine-launched ballistic missiles and the number of anti-ballistic missile sites. However, SALT and SALT II (which followed in 1979) ultimately failed.

1b Explain **one** consequence of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

(4)

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The consequence is described simply or very generally. The information about the consequence is general and shows limited knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.
2	3–4	Features of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 are analysed to explain a consequence. Specific information is included to support the explanation of the consequence, showing good knowledge and understanding of a consequence of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Relevant point that could be included

- The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was criticised across the world. Gorbachev withdrew Soviet soldiers from the region in 1989, and this defeat made the USSR look weak.

2 Write a narrative account analysing the key events that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. (8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Hungarian–Austrian border
- Mikhail Gorbachev

You **must** also use information of your own.

Mark scheme

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer contains a narrative, but it is simple or generalised. The events are poorly analysed and the answer is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the main events that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.
2	3–5	The answer contains a narrative, and it is sometimes organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is some analysis showing how the events are linked, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the main events that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.
3	6–8	The answer contains a narrative that is organised to show a sequence of events leading to an outcome. There is analysis showing how the events are linked, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the main events that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Relevant points that could be included:

- Many East Germans were buoyed by other Eastern Bloc countries abandoning communism in the summer of 1989 and started demonstrations in East Germany.
- After the Hungarian government opened the border with Austria in August 1989, many East Germans escaped with no opposition to West Germany via Czechoslovakia and the Hungarian–Austrian border.

- East German communist leader Erich Honecker hoped for Soviet intervention. He was disappointed when Gorbachev visited East Germany in October 1989, because Gorbachev refused to get involved in East Germany's affairs.
- On 9 November 1989, the East German government relented and announced that the border between East and West Berlin would be opened. Within a few days, a million East Germans had crossed the border, visiting relatives in West Berlin for the first time in 28 years and enjoying the relative freedom and prosperity of life in the West.

3 Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' about Eastern Europe for the end of the Cold War. (8)
- The importance of the opening of the border between East and West Germany for the end of the Cold War. (8)
- The importance of the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact for the end of the Cold War. (8)

Mark scheme for the first bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' about Eastern Europe for the end of the Cold War.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' about Eastern Europe for the end of the Cold War.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' about Eastern Europe for the end of the Cold War.

Relevant points that could be included

- Gorbachev's new thinking of *glasnost* (meaning openness) and *perestroika* (meaning re-structuring) gave the people of the Eastern Bloc more say in how to run their countries.

- Due to Gorbachev's new thinking, many Eastern Bloc countries quickly abandoned communism and declared themselves independent. Gorbachev also improved relations with the West. By weakening the Eastern Bloc and ending hostilities with the USA, Gorbachev played a key role in ending the Cold War.
- When the USSR's allies abandoned communism, the Warsaw Pact was dissolved, leaving the USSR severely weakened.

Mark scheme for the second bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the opening of the border between East Germany and West Germany for the end of the Cold War.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the opening of the border between East Germany and West Germany for the end of the Cold War.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the opening of the border between East Germany and West Germany for the end of the Cold War.

Relevant points that could be included

- On 9 November 1989, the East German government announced that the border between East and West Berlin would be opened. Within a few days, 1 million East Germans had crossed the border, visiting relatives in West Berlin for the first time in 28 years and enjoying the relative freedom and prosperity of life in the West.
- The fall of the Berlin Wall is seen by many historians as the final major event of the Cold War. The wall's fall showed that the USSR had given up control of Eastern Europe and was no longer willing to have influence there.
- Although communism in the USSR continued for another two years, when the Berlin Wall came down on 9 November 1989, the end of the Cold War appeared inevitable – particularly as other Eastern Bloc countries had already, by this time, gained their independence from the USSR.

Mark scheme for the third bullet point

Level	Marks	Explanation
1	1–2	The answer is simple or generalised. It is not developed, and it is poorly organised. The answer contains limited knowledge and understanding of the importance of the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact for the end of the Cold War.
2	3–5	The answer contains an explanation and tries to analyse importance. It contains some reasoning, but some passages are not as coherent and organised as they could be. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the importance of the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact for the end of the Cold War.
3	6–8	The answer contains an explanation and analyses importance. There is a clear line of reasoning throughout, and the answer is coherent and well organised. Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the importance of the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact for the end of the Cold War.

Relevant points that could be included

- The Warsaw Pact was dissolved because Eastern Bloc countries rejected communism. This rejection was important in helping end the Cold War because it showed that previously communist countries wanted a change of regime.
- The speed in which Eastern Bloc countries gained independence and left the Warsaw Pact clearly undermined the power and control of the USSR.
- The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact was also important in undermining the power and authority of the leader of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev, whose leadership was challenged and weakened by the 1991 attempted coup.