

# The Cold War

## timeline

### c. 1943-1991

This booklet summarises the Cold War in twelve and a bit pages. It contains the essential, need-to-know points\* in date order. As well as factual detail, you will need to know your dates in the exam!

*A suggested revision activity, using this timeline:*

Plot the rise and fall of tension between the Superpowers by making a long living graph (y axis = tension, 0 to 5; x axis = events). You could add notes to your graph to explain the points you have plotted. This is an excellent way of preparing for 15 mark *explain the importance of....* and 16 mark *explain why....* questions. It will also help you to learn the dates of key events, plus you'll be revising factual detail as you do it.

*\* For further detail, you'll need to refer your class notes. BBC Bitesize is also good for the Cold War.*

### 1943 **The Teheran Conference**

*Decisions were made about the war with Germany (WW2)....*

- USA & Britain would open up a second front by invading France in May 1944 (France was occupied by the Nazis)
- USSR would help the USA fight Japan after the Germans had been defeated.

### 1945 February: **The Yalta Conference**

*The Grand Alliance met to discuss & decide what to do with Germany once it had been defeated....*

- Germany would be divided into 4 zones (British, French, American and Soviet)
- Berlin would also be split into 4 zones, because it was inside the Soviet zone of Germany
- Nazi war criminals would be hunted down and put on trial in an international court of justice

*...and what to do with the countries that the Nazis had conquered during WW2....*

- Countries which had been occupied by the Nazis, which had since been freed by Soviet troops (the Red Army) would have free elections to choose their new governments.

*There was some disagreement over Poland.*

- Stalin wanted to take part of eastern Poland, and add it to the USSR Poland would be compensated by giving it 25% of Germany's land.
- Stalin used the excuse that the USSR needed to turn Poland into a buffer zone, to protect the USSR from another possible German invasion in the future (Poland was sandwiched in between the USSR and Germany). Germany had already invaded the USSR twice, in 1914 and 1941. Roosevelt and Churchill were not keen on this idea.

### July: **The Potsdam Conference**

*Decisions were made about the reparations Germany was to pay....*

- Stalin wanted high reparations, to make Germany weak (since Germany had invaded the USSR twice in the last 50 years). The USA & Britain wanted to keep Germany economically strong, so it would be a buffer against the spread of Communism.
- It was agreed that Germany would pay reparations mostly to the USSR, in the form of equipment and materials.

*Other agreements were made about the future of Germany....*

- Germany was to be demilitarised, and democracy brought back
- The Nazi Party was banned. Trials for Nazis accused of war crimes went ahead in Nuremberg, 1946.

*Poland continued to be a source of disagreement....*

- Stalin had already set up a Communist government in Poland, despite him agreeing at Yalta that Nazi occupied countries like Poland would have free elections!

*Lots had changed since Yalta, which had a negative impact on relations....*

- Truman replaced Roosevelt as US President. Unlike Roosevelt, Truman distrusted Stalin and was determined to stand up to him.
- USA tested the first atomic bomb before the conference...Stalin was angry that he hadn't known beforehand.

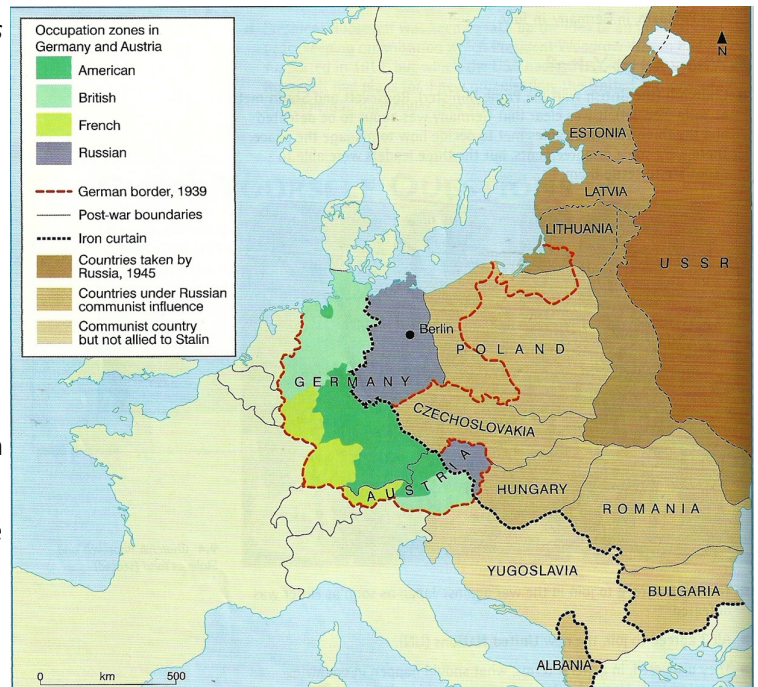
### **1945-1947: The Soviet Union's expansion into eastern Europe**

*Between 1945 and 1948 the USSR took over several countries in Eastern Europe, and took control of others...*

- The USSR took over Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and part of Eastern Poland, adding these to the USSR's territory. Other countries like Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia were taken control of. Communist governments were slyly set up in these countries, and their economies started to be run for the USSR's benefit. Soon, these countries were little more than areas of the USSR (called satellites). Together, the land controlled/ owned by the USSR in Eastern Europe became known as the Soviet Communist bloc, or Eastern bloc.

**1945 cont.** Stalin claimed that the Soviet Union's expansion was defensive...

- He pointed out that before WW2 these countries had had anti-Soviet governments, and some had helped the Germans invade the USSR in 1941, during WW2 (eg. Hungary). Therefore, he was only trying to ensure that these countries now had governments which were loyal to the USSR!
- It was easy for the USSR to take control of these countries – the Red Army had liberated them from Nazi control. Instead of leaving, the Red Army continued to occupy these countries long after the end of the war. But what about the free elections that Stalin had promised at Yalta?



**1946 Churchill's Iron Curtain speech** He referred to

the division between Eastern and Western Europe as an 'Iron Curtain' between the two sides. This was not a physical division (yet), but a political and economic one, between capitalism and communism.

**1947 The Truman Doctrine** This was a policy carried out by the USA to stop communism spreading by using military force. Truman said he would send troops to any country that was being threatened (that faced being taken over by) communists. This would 'contain' communism, stopping it from spreading, so it is sometimes called the policy of containment. It showed that Truman believed countries in eastern Europe had been forced into communism by the USSR. The policy was partly inspired by the civil war in Greece. Greece (Britain's trading area) was being threatened by a communist takeover, and the British asked the USA for financial help to help fight the communists. The USA sent military & economic resources to Greece, resulting in the defeat of Greek communists.

**The Marshall Plan** This was a policy (plan) by the USA to give countries a total of \$17 billion to help them repair war damage and get their economies back on their feet after WW2. It wasn't just the USA being generous – Truman reckoned that if countries weren't poor, they wouldn't be attracted to communism. It also benefitted the USA as countries taking the money had to agree to trade with the USA. Communist countries were offered this aid too, but Stalin/Comecon stopped them from accepting it. Stalin didn't want communist countries being more dependent on the USA than the USSR.

**Cominform** This was an organisation set up by the USSR. It was designed to help spread communism and protect communist countries from American interference. All of the communist governments in the satellite states were put under the control of the USSR. Leaders of these governments were replaced if they were not seen as being loyal to Stalin. This showed that Stalin wanted total control of the communist world, and would not put up with any opposition.

**1948 1948-9: The Berlin Crisis/Blockade/Airlift** (not to be confused with the 1961 Berlin Crisis!)

**Causes....**

- Berlin, like the rest of Germany, had been divided into four zones of occupation. This had been decided at the Yalta Conference. As Berlin was in the Soviet zone of Germany, the West (US, Britain, France) depended on the USSR to keep open the routes going in and out of Berlin from the western zones of Germany.

1948  
cont.



- This went wrong when the Superpowers disagreed about how far Germany's economy should be allowed to recover. The USA, Britain and France had joined their zones together (Trizonia), and wanted to launch a new currency to help their zones recover from the war. This was what they were doing in West Germany, with the help of Marshall Aid. They wanted a strong West Germany & West Berlin, to protect against the spread of communism.

- Stalin saw a rich West Germany as a threat to the USSR. What if Germany attacked the USSR again? He wanted the western allies out of Berlin altogether.

#### ***What happened....***

- In June, Stalin closed off all roads, railways and canals between West Germany and West Berlin. Stalin wanted to force the western allies to give up Berlin by starving the two million inhabitants of West Berlin. The inhabitants needed 4000 tonnes of supplies every day.

- The western allies chose the least aggressive option – they flew the supplies into West Berlin. This was called the Berlin Airlift. A total of 27,000 flights were made before the USSR gave in and opened the land routes again in May 1949. Stalin didn't dare shoot down the planes, as it would have led to war. The West had shown how determined it was to resist communism. It was costly, though – 79 British and American pilots were killed in accidents, and it cost more than \$200 million.

#### ***Consequences....***

- In 1949, the Allied zones of Germany officially became West Germany (or the FDR – Federal Republic of Germany) and the Soviet zone became East Germany (Democratic Republic of Germany).
- Berlin remained inside East Germany, and was a permanent source of tension during the Cold War, leading to a later crisis in 1961.

**1949 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)** The Berlin Blockade had convinced the capitalist West of the lengths that the USSR was prepared to go to in order to spread communism. So, the USA set up this military alliance. It was a defensive alliance - all 12 members agreed to go to war if one of them was attacked. The alliance allowed the USA to set up air bases in member-countries. This meant US bombers or missiles could be stationed on the borders of the USSR. The alliance aimed to prevent Soviet expansion (ie. the USSR taking over more countries and turning them communist).

**Comecon** This was an organisation set up by the USSR to unite all the economies of Eastern Europe. This organisation controlled what each country produced and sold. It worked to the benefit of the USSR, not to the benefit of the satellite states themselves. This meant that there was a lack of competition in industry, leading to poor quality goods, a shortage of goods and a lower standard of living for the people living in those countries.

**The Chinese Communist Revolution In China** The Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, seized power. This showed that the Cold War had moved on to Asia. The USA came up with the domino theory—the belief that if one nation 'fell' to communism in Asia, it would be followed by many others.

**The Soviet Union's first atom bomb test** This kick started the arms race in earnest. Both the USSR and USA poured money into projects to build more and bigger bombs. Each side suspected that the other aimed to build up enough weapons to be able to make a first strike, preventing the other side retaliating.

**1950 The Korean War 1950-55** For the USA, this meant that the domino theory had become a reality. North Korea was ruled by communists, supported by the USSR and China. South Korea had a democratic government, supported by the USA. North Korean forces invaded the South in 1950, in an attempt to turn the South communist.

**1953 Stalin's death. Khrushchev takes over** as leader of the USSR.

**Eisenhower becomes President** of the USA (takes over from Truman).

**Both the USA and USSR possessed hydrogen bombs**, hundreds of times more powerful than the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

**1954 The USA tested its biggest hydrogen bomb to date**, believed to be 1000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. Churchill described the global situation as a 'balance of terror'.

**1955 The Warsaw Pact** To counter NATO, the Soviet Union set up this alliance of communist countries. It was a defensive military alliance of 8 nations— all members agreed to go to war if one of them was attacked.

**1956 Khrushchev's secret speech** was made to the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. In his speech, Khrushchev heavily criticised the brutality of Stalin's rule. The idea of the Soviet Union putting the worst aspects of life under Stalin behind them was called 'de-Stalinisation'. K. wanted to replace the old policy of confrontation with the West with a new policy of 'peaceful coexistence'. The capitalist West liked this idea! De-Stalinisation also raised expectations in the eastern European satellite states. Several began to demand changes and tried to weaken Soviet influence. However, like the West, they had misunderstood Khrushchev's motives. He could not allow changes in the satellite states because he feared that change could result in the end of communism in eastern Europe, and the destruction of the buffer against the West. He was not prepared to compromise the security of the Soviet Union.

### The Hungarian Uprising 1956-7

#### Causes....

- The Soviet Union had invaded and occupied Hungary at the end of the war, helping to install a communist government, led by Rakosi.
- Rakosi ruled Hungary as a brutal dictator. With the help of the AVH (secret police) Rakosi imprisoned 200,000 political opponents (people who disagreed with him) and killed over 2000 of them. He also allowed the USSR to control Hungary's economy through Comecon. This meant Hungary couldn't trade with the West, leading to a shortage of goods and a low standard of living. By the early 1950s Rakosi had become v unpopular in Hungary.

#### What happened.....

- Massive demonstrations forced Rakosi out, and Nagy took over as PM.
- Nagy was a modernising communist; he tried to introduce changes like free elections, trade with W Germany and withdrawing Hungary from the Warsaw Pact. He even asked the UN for help in dealing with the USSR.



- 1956 cont.**
- Khrushchev was having none of this! 200,000 Soviet troops and 1000 tanks invaded Hungary to put a stop to the uprising. The Hungarian rebels asked Britain, France and the USA for help, but none came. The USSR crushed the uprising.
- Consequences....**
- Around 30,000 Hungarians were killed, and 200,000 fled Hungary as refugees.
  - Nagy was replaced as the Hungarian Prime Minister by the communist hardliner Kadar, who had Nagy executed.
  - The Soviet Union had sent out a warning to other satellite states – don't even think about trying to break away from the Soviet Union or Warsaw Pact!
  - The West were horrified (but not enough to take military action against the Soviet Union—it might lead to war) and became more determined to contain communism. The West were distracted by the Suez Crisis at the time.
- 1957 US spending on armaments increased by 20%.** NASA was also founded. Concerned that the Soviet Union was overtaking the USA in the arms race, the US air force increased the number of B52 bombers and the navy equipped some of its submarines with nuclear weapons.
- 1959 Fidel Castro** comes to power in Cuba, in a communist revolution which overthrows the old leader, Batista.
- 1961 John F. Kennedy becomes President** of the USA (takes over from Eisenhower).
- The Berlin Crisis 1961 (the one resulting in the building of the Berlin Wall)**
- Causes....including the summit conferences of Geneva and Camp David (1959), Paris (1960) and Vienna (1961)**
- The Soviet Union were once again trying to get the western Allies to leave Berlin. West Berlin was a huge embarrassment to the USSR. West Berlin was a showpiece of capitalism, where people enjoyed luxury goods and a high standard of living; in east Berlin people worked long hours and suffered food shortages. Lots of East Berliners were defecting (moving) to West Berlin. By 1961, 2000 per day were leaving East Berlin (or East Germany via Berlin). This was known as the 'refugee crisis'.
  - In Nov 1958, Khrushchev declared that the whole city of Berlin belonged to E Germany, and issued an **ultimatum** giving US troops 6 months to leave Berlin. Eisenhower (President until 1961) didn't want to risk war, but didn't want to lose Berlin, so he agreed to a summit conference of US/Soviet representatives in 1959 in **Geneva**, to discuss Berlin (see above). No solution was agreed, but the conference did lay the groundwork for Khrushchev to visit the USA to speak with Eisenhower in person.
  - In Sept 1959 a second summit conference took place at **Camp David**, the US presidential retreat. Khrushchev agreed to withdraw his 6 month ultimatum, and the two leaders agreed to have yet another summit conference!!
  - The next summit was arranged for May 1960 in **Paris**, to try to reach a solution to the Berlin problem. But before the conference, tension flared up when the USSR shot down a US spy plane (called a U2 plane) above Russia. The USSR demanded an apology from the USA for their spying. The USA refused, saying they had a right to protect themselves from surprise attack (the plane had taken photos of missile sites). The summit conference was called off.
  - When JFK became President, another summit was arranged to discuss Berlin, this time, in **Vienna**. Neither side seemed willing to back down. However, Khrushchev was determined to push the inexperienced JFK, and issued the USA with a second 6 month ultimatum to remove its troops from Berlin. JFK refused, and raised the US defence budget by an extra \$3.2 billion. A point of stalemate had been reached.
- What happened....**
- In August 1961 the USSR built a concrete wall between East and West Berlin. They made it clear that anyone caught trying to cross the wall (from East to West Berlin) would be shot. Many were so desperate that they still tried – in the first year of the wall being there, 41 East Berliners were shot. The wall separated families and friends. East Berliners saw it as a sign of their inferiority.
  - The West did nothing to stop the building of the wall, not wanting to risk war.

**1961 Consequences...**

- cont.**
- Khrushchev saw the wall as a victory, because it brought an end to the refugee crisis.
  - In 1963 JFK made a speech in West Berlin, expressing solidarity with Berliners (Ich bin ein Berliner). He asked why, if communism was such an ideal system, was it necessary to build a wall to keep people in? JFK was also using the opportunity to show the USA's commitment to the people of West Berlin by suggesting that the USA would never desert the city. This angered the communists – they thought Kennedy was causing trouble.

**1961****The Bay of Pigs Invasion**

- After relations with Cuba deteriorated (see below), the USA hatched a plan to invade Cuba and remove Castro from power. Rather than have the US invade, the CIA trained a team of 1500 Cuban exiles, who had left Cuba when Castro had come to power. The CIA were certain that when the exiles landed, the Cuban people would rise up and overthrow Castro.
- The invasion went badly wrong, and was a huge embarrassment for the USA and Kennedy. The CIA had failed to understand that Castro was very popular in Cuba. Furthermore, Castro had been expecting the invasion, because some of the exiles had been overheard discussing plans in Miami. Cuban forces (totalling around 20,000) outnumbered the exiles.

**1962 The Cuban Missiles Crisis****Causes....**

- Relations between the USA and Cuba had soured after communist Castro came to power (1959) and ejected all US business and investment from Cuba. In retaliation, the US had refused to buy Cuban sugar. This allowed the USSR to gain influence by offering to trade with Cuba.
- The Bay of Pigs invasion (see above) pushed Castro much closer to the Soviet Union. Khrushchev began to send military supplies to Cuba, and in September 1962, the USSR installed ballistic (nuclear) missiles. Khrushchev claimed to be defending Cuba from future attacks by the USA/ Cuban exiles – the missiles were defensive, not offensive.
- The situation changed very suddenly when in October 1962 a U2 spy plane took photographs of Cuba which showed that the USSR were building intermediate range missile bases. These IRBMs (Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles) could hit almost all US cities, unlike the medium range ones installed earlier in 1962. Therefore, the IRBMs were clearly offensive, and posed a threat to the USA's security.

**What happened.....**

- The period from which Kennedy first saw the photographs to the Soviet decision to dismantle the missile bases lasted 13 days.
- Kennedy and his advisers decided to place a naval blockade (or quarantine) around Cuba, to prevent any Soviet ships delivering military materials. A fleet of submarines were made ready for action and over 150 ICBMs were made ready for combat. Kennedy informed Khrushchev that the Soviet convoy of ships approaching Cuba would be stopped and inspected for military materials.
- The Soviet Union decided to turn its ships around, to avoid confrontation. Kennedy demanded the removal of all missiles from Cuba, and said the US would invade Cuba if the Soviet Union refused.

- 1962 cont.**
- Khrushchev sent a letter to Kennedy offering to remove the missiles if the blockade was lifted and the USA promised not to invade Cuba. The next day, he sent a tougher letter, under pressure from his advisers. He promised to remove the missiles if the USA removed their missiles from Turkey (on the Soviet Union's border).
  - Kennedy decided to ignore the second letter, and accepted the offer made in the first. Khrushchev accepted the offer. In a secret deal, the US promised to remove its missiles from Turkey, at a later date. This decision was not made public.

#### ***Consequences....***

- Khrushchev was humiliated because he'd backed down. He faced criticism from Soviet politicians and the Chinese leader, Mao Zedong. He was sacked in 1964.
- A telephone hotline was set up between Washington and Moscow, to ensure that the leaders of the USA and USSR did not have to communicate by letter in the event of another crisis!
- There were moves towards limiting the growth of nuclear weapons. Eg. The Partial Test Ban Treaty 1963 – the USA & USSR agreed to stop testing nuclear weapons above ground. Also the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 1968 saw the 5 nuclear countries agreeing not to help other countries develop nuclear weapons of their own.

**1964 Brezhnev becomes leader of the USSR,** after Khrushchev's departure.

**1968 The Prague Spring and Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia 1968-9**

#### ***Causes of the Prague Spring....***

- The Czech leader, Novotny, a hard line communist and Soviet 'puppet', was very unpopular.
- In 1962-63, national income fell. The Czech economy seemed to be run purely for the benefit of the USSR.
- Novotny was replaced by Dubcek, a reforming communist. This move was supported by Brezhnev, leader of the USSR.

#### ***What happened during the Prague Spring....***

- Dubcek promised the people 'socialism with a human face', and launched a series of reforms known as the Prague Spring.
- The reforms aimed to improve standard of living, allow for greater freedom and democracy, and introduce trade with West Germany.
- Dubcek tried to reassure Brezhnev that his changes wouldn't threaten the USSR and that Czechoslovakia wouldn't leave the Warsaw Pact.

#### ***Causes of the Soviet invasion....***

- Brezhnev was unconvinced. He was worried that Czechoslovakia, which had the strongest industry in the Soviet Bloc, would leave the WP – allowing NATO to move in.
- The reforms, and increased contact with the West, might spread across the satellite states. The Soviet Bloc and the WP might collapse, and the USSR would no longer have its buffer zone!
- The other Warsaw Pact countries also objected to the reforms.





**1968** *What happened during the invasion....*

- cont.**
- In August 1968, 500,000 troops from the WP countries invaded Czechoslovakia.
  - There was only a little violent protest. The Czechs remembered what had happened to the rebels in Hungary in 1956. So the Czechs responded to the invasion with sit ins, demos etc. However, Russian tanks were attacked with petrol bombs, and one student, Jan Palach, set himself on fire as a protest against Soviet occupation.

**Consequences....**

- A new leader replaced Dubcek, called Husak. He reverted Czechoslovakia to strict communist rule.
- The invasion *temporarily* led to worsened East-West relations. It showed the West that the USSR would not permit reform or opposition in the satellite states...but the West weren't prepared to intervene and so risk the outbreak of war. Besides, the USA was busy in Vietnam.
- The invasion of Czechoslovakia led to the **Brezhnev Doctrine**. This stressed that a threat to one communist country was a threat to all, and force would be used wherever necessary to keep the satellite states firmly under Soviet control.
- However, the Warsaw Pact did suffer. Romania refused to send troops to invade Czechoslovakia, and took an increasingly independent stance against the USSR. Albania did the same and left the WP.

**1969** **Nixon becomes President** of the USA.

**The development of détente (1970s)** (a relaxation of tension between the superpowers). There were three key reasons why the superpowers were determined to improve relations....

- 1 To reduce the threat of nuclear war. Both the USA and USSR had stockpiles of weapons with a capacity to destroy the Earth many times over. The Cuban Missiles Crisis had shown how dangerous the Cold War was.
- 2 To increase trade. The US economy was being crippled by the huge cost of the war in Vietnam. The USSR had low living standards and poor industrial efficiency
- 3 By 1968 the USA wanted pull out of Vietnam. Nixon thought that if he could improve trade and technology links with the USSR, Brezhnev might persuade North Vietnam to negotiate an end to the war. This idea was called 'linkage'.

**1972** **SALT I agreement**

- This agreement was the product of the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks which had begun in 1969.
- The agreement limited the number of ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) and ABMs (anti-ballistic missiles, the ones used to destroy ballistic missiles!) on both sides.
- The treaty was very significant because it showed clear recognition of the need to protect the nuclear balance by ensuring that neither side could consider itself immune from retaliation (MAD theory).
- Each side was allowed to use spy satellites to check that the other was not breaking the agreed limits.
- However, the agreement did not reduce *existing* stocks of nuclear weapons. Also, there was no restriction on MIRVs. An MIRV is a missile which carries several nuclear warheads – all of which can be independently directed at different targets, each with 25x the power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

**1972** **President Nixon's visit to Moscow** (note that the textbook gives the wrong date!) This was the first time that a US President had visited Moscow. Nixon met with Brezhnev, and agreed.....

<p><b>1972</b> <b>cont.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To limit and eventually end the arms race, the ultimate objective being complete disarmament</li> <li>• To develop cooperation in economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields</li> </ul>
<p><b>1975</b></p>	<p><b>The Space link-up</b> US and Soviet astronauts met up in space, exchanging a symbolic handshake. Tensions appeared to be on the mend!</p> <p><b>The Helsinki Agreements</b> 35 countries, including the USA and the USSR, signed these, marking the high point of détente....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The West recognised the borders of eastern Europe, and accepted Soviet influence in that area (ie. this means that Soviet control of their satellite states was no longer disputed by the West).</li> <li>• West Germany and East Germany officially recognised (accepted the presence of) each other.</li> <li>• The Soviet Union agreed to buy US grain and to export oil to the West.</li> <li>• All countries agreed to improve human rights—freedom of speech, of religion and travel.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1977</b></p>	<p><b>Carter becomes President of the USA.</b></p>
<p><b>1979</b></p>	<p><b>SALT II agreement</b> Talks for SALT II started in 1974 and the treaty was signed in 1979. It was agreed to make further reductions in nuclear weapons. For example, the number of MIRVs on each side was limited.</p>
	<p><b>However, détente soon collapsed, because....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The West thought that the USSR was not taking human rights seriously enough, even after the Helsinki Agreements. Inside the USSR, opponents of the communist government criticised travel restrictions and prison conditions. One dissident (opponent) was Andrei Sakharov. He wanted a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons, an end to the Cold War and the introduction of democracy in the USSR. He was put under house arrest by the Soviet government.</li> <li>• The new US President, Carter, annoyed Brezhnev by trying to link reductions in weapons with the issue of human rights. Carter sent a letter to Sakharov, supporting him. Brezhnev saw this as the USA interfering in the USSR's business!</li> <li>• The most significant cause of the collapse of détente was....</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan</b></p> <p><b>Causes...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brezhnev was worried about the growing power of Islamic fundamentalism – led by the Mujahideen, who wanted to overthrow Amin's government and set up a Muslim state. The Soviet Union itself contained 30 million Muslims in its areas near the Afghan border. Brezhnev was concerned that Muslims in the Soviet Union would start supporting the Mujahideen and would demand changes to the way the Soviet Union was run (eg. introduction of Islamic law, or even independence from the USSR). Therefore, Islamic fundamentalism was a big threat to the Soviet communist system.</li> <li>• The USSR also wanted to get rid of Amin, and replace him with a president who would be friendlier to the USSR. Amin was seen as a threat to the Soviet Union's interests in the Middle-East. Despite receiving Soviet military aid, was not friendly with the Soviet Union, and wanted to build relations with the USA.</li> <li>• Afghanistan bordered the Soviet Union. If Amin improved links with the USA, then US influence in Afghanistan would threaten the Soviet Union's security, as well as their oil interests in the Persian Gulf region.</li> </ul>

**1979** *What happened....*

cont.

- More than 50,000 Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan. Amin was murdered, and a new government was set up in Kabul, led by Babrak Karmal. Karmal was a previous Afghan leader who had been in exile in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union therefore knew that he would be friendly towards them.
- When Amin was murdered, many Afghan soldiers deserted to join the Mujahideen. They didn't support Karmal. Karmal's position as head of the Afghan government was entirely dependent on Soviet military support to keep it in power.
- Brezhnev told the world that the Soviet invasion had been necessary to restore order (because the Mujahideen were threatening the Afghan government!) He told the US President, Carter, that Soviet troops had been invited in by the Afghan government to protect it, and that troops would be withdrawn as soon as the situation stabilised. (They weren't withdrawn until 1989.)

*Consequences....*

- Carter issued the Carter Doctrine. This policy said that the USA would use military force if necessary to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf region. The USA wanted to protect the routes which supplied oil from the Middle East to the USA and Western Europe. If the Soviet Union gained too much influence in the Middle-East, they could threaten the USA's oil supply. Carter saw the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as a potential stepping stone to Soviet control of most of the Middle-East.
- The USA promised to support the Mujahideen. The Mujahideen were carrying out guerrilla warfare against Soviet troops, to win back control of their country.
- Carter cut trade between the USA and the Soviet Union – he cancelled all shipments of grain to the USSR, and forbade US companies to trade technological equipment such as computers and oil drilling equipment.
- Carter pressured the United States Olympic Committee to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games (1980). The USOC agreed, and so did 61 other countries. This worsened relations even more. Some of those countries who boycotted the Olympics held an alternative event, called the 'Liberty Bell Classic'.

**1980** **The US boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games (see above)**

**1981** **Reagan becomes President** of the USA. He announces that the **new US defence programme will cost over a trillion dollars**. New weapons were developed, such as....

- The neutron bomb—designed to kill lots of people in one go, but do little damage to property or infrastructures
- Cruise Missiles—designed to deliver a large warhead over long distances with high accuracy without being detected by radar. NATO agreed to Cruise Missiles being placed in Western Europe.

*As a result, the USA's view of nuclear war changed....*

- Up until the 1980s, the Superpowers had both accepted MAD theory (Mutually Assured Destruction). This theory said that nuclear weapons made each side more secure and less likely to attack because there could be no winner in a nuclear war. The enemy would not dare make the first strike because the other side would strike back before its bombs had landed – so it too would be destroyed.
- When new weapons were developed (see above), Reagan and his advisers accepted a new theory: NUTS (Nuclear Utilization Target Selection). NUTS was the idea that in a nuclear war specific targets could be picked out, and so destruction would be limited. This suggested there could be a winner in a nuclear war.

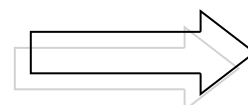
1982	<p><b>START meetings between Reagan and Brezhnev.</b> The USA and USSR resumed arms talks. They were called <i>Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START)</i>. Note that this time, ‘reduction’ was substituted for ‘limitation’ - ie. this time, the talks were aiming to destroy existing nuclear weapons, not just limit the development of new ones. Reagan knew that he was approaching talks from a position of strength because of the economic problems that the USSR was experiencing.</p> <p><b>Brezhnev dies. Andropov becomes the new leader of the USSR.</b></p>
1983	<p><b>Reagan announces the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or <i>Star Wars</i></b> This was a plan to develop a satellite anti-missile system that would orbit the earth. The aim was to make it impossible for Soviet missiles to reach US targets, by creating a huge laser shield in space. Andropov accused the USA of coming up with a plan on how to unleash nuclear war in the hope of winning it. He knew that SDI would give the USA an advantage in any nuclear conflict, and would make them more willing to consider a tactical nuclear war. The USSR would have to spend even more money on armaments in order to compete with the USA—and this could cause the Soviet economy to collapse.</p>
1984	<p><b>Andropov dies. Chernenko becomes the new leader of the USSR.</b></p> <p><b>Soviet boycott of the US Olympic Games in LA</b> Chernenko accused the USA of using the games for political purposes—ie. to promote capitalism/the West and make communism/the East look bad. He also claimed that security for Soviet athletes was inadequate. The USA saw the boycott as retaliation for their boycott of the Moscow 1980 Olympics. The Soviet boycott was supported by members of the Warsaw Pact. The boycotting nations held their own alternative, called the Friendship Games.</p>
1985	<p><b>Chernenko dies. Gorbachev becomes the new leader of the USSR.</b> Gorbachev was prepared to adopt drastic policies to improve Superpower relations, as he knew that without change, the Soviet Union would collapse....</p> <p><b><u>Why was the Cold War draining the Soviet Union’s wealth?</u></b></p> <p><i>Costs were mounting because of ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The arms race (the Soviet Union felt the need to keep up with the USA’s development of new weapons)</li> <li>• Afghanistan</li> <li>• Keeping control of the satellite states (as promised in the Brezhnev Doctrine 1968)</li> </ul> <p><i>So, in order to save the Soviet Union from collapse, Gorbachev saw a need to...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut back on arms expenditure and end the arms race by reaching arms agreements with the USA (dismantling weapons and not developing new ones)</li> <li>• Pull out of Afghanistan</li> <li>• Abandon the Brezhnev Doctrine by no longer interfering in the internal affairs of the satellite states/members of the Warsaw Pact</li> <li>• Gorbachev also realised that Soviet industry was not producing enough money. There was no competition between industries, as they were all state controlled rather than privately owned, and no incentives to increase output. Output was low, and the quality of goods shoddy. This led to a poor standard of living in communist states, which, in turn, led to unrest among the people.</li> </ul>

<p><b>1985 cont.</b></p>	<p>The two key principles behind Gorbachev's reforms were <b>glasnost</b> (openness) and <b>perestroika</b> (restructuring). What did they involve?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Perestroika (restructuring) meant changing some economic policies to allow more competition and more incentives to produce goods. Gorbachev believed that the Soviet Union could only survive if it relaxed economic controls (such as those imposed by Comecon);</li> <li>2. Glasnost (openness) meant restoring people's faith in government by ending corruption. Gorbachev believed that people should not be punished for simply disagreeing with the government. There should be more open political debate.</li> </ol> <p>As part of glasnost and perestroika, Gorbachev carried out reforms such as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Releasing dissidents (people who disagreed with the government) from jail</li> <li>• Publishing books that were previously banned</li> <li>• Being open with the Soviet people about the atrocities committed when Stalin was in power</li> <li>• Introducing some aspects of a free economy (eg. trading for private profit)</li> </ul> <p>...BUT glasnost was a double edged sword for Gorbachev—the more freedom people were given, the more they wanted, making it more and more difficult to keep the Communist Party in power.</p> <p><b>Geneva Accord</b> Reagan and Gorbachev held a <b>summit meeting in Geneva</b> in Nov 1985, to discuss issues without their advisers. Nothing concrete was decided, but the resulting Geneva Accord committed the two countries to speeding up arms talks and being more active on issues of human rights. The significance of this summit meeting is that the two leaders had been able to be friendly with each other, despite poor relations between the Superpowers in the 1980s.</p> <p><b>1986 Reykjavik summit meeting</b> This meeting between Reagan &amp; Gorbachev collapsed after Reagan refused to give up <i>Star Wars</i> (SDI).</p> <p><b>1987 The Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)</b> came about as a result of a <b>third summit meeting in Washington</b>. This treaty saw the Superpowers agree to destroy both nuclear and conventional weapons of an intermediate range. By 1991, over 2500 such weapons had been destroyed. Under the treaty, both nations were allowed to inspect each other's weapons stocks to check that weapons had been destroyed. Alongside the Soviet Union's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the INF was particularly important in convincing the USA that the Soviet Union no longer posed a major threat.</p> <p><b>1988 Gorbachev's rejection of the Brezhnev Doctrine (see 1968)</b> This meant that Gorbachev was saying that the USSR was no longer prepared to use military force to keep the satellite states under Soviet control.</p> <p><b>1989 The Sinatra Doctrine</b> Gorbachev accepted that members of the Warsaw Pact could make changes to their own countries without the Soviet Union interfering (eg. they could introduce democracy, private trading etc).</p> <p><b>The official end of the Cold War!</b> This was announced by Bush and Gorbachev at yet another summit meeting in Malta.</p> <p><b>The collapse of communism in eastern Europe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In <b>Hungary</b>, a range of political parties was formed (it was no longer the case that only the Communist Party was allowed). Free elections were planned. Most importantly, Hungary opened its borders with Austria. This meant there was now a hole in the Iron Curtain, creating a way for East Germans to move to West Germany</li> </ul>
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<b>1989 cont.</b>	.....(the very long way round!) Was there no longer any point to the Berlin Wall? Gorbachev did not interfere, and started to withdraw Soviet troops from Hungary.  <b>George Bush (Senior) becomes President of the USA.</b>
<b>1990</b>	In East Germany, demonstrations occurred, calling for democracy and free elections. Gorbachev visited East Germany and assured leaders that the Soviet Union would not interfere. After the East German government announced the opening of borders with West Germany, the people began to dismantle the Berlin Wall. Within a few days, over a million people <i>per day</i> had taken the chance to see relative and experience life in the West.  <b>Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia declared themselves independent.</b> These were the states that had been added to the Soviet Union by Stalin in 1945. Inspired by the satellite states' example of breaking away, this event in turn inspired other demands for independence within the Soviet Union (the Soviet Union contained many different ethnic groups). There were fears that the Soviet Union was about to disintegrate, and opposition to Gorbachev mounted.  <b>The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE)</b> This was the result of a <b>summit meeting in Moscow</b> . It was signed by both NATO and Warsaw Pact members. It reduced the number of tanks, missiles, aircraft and other forms of non-nuclear (conventional) hardware held by the states who signed.
<b>1991</b>	<b>The START talks 1990-91</b> At another summit meeting (losing track yet?) in Washington, Bush and Gorbachev discussed Strategic Arms Limitations and final signed the <b>START I Treaty</b> in 1991. It called for both sides to reduce their nuclear forces over a period of 7 years by up to 35%. Gorbachev and Bush signed the treaty with pens made from scrapped missiles!  <b>Gorbachev is almost overthrown in an attempted coup d'état (takeover)</b> He eventually resigned in December 1991. The Soviet Union was split into several independent states.

## Exam question advice/writing frames

Question type	Marks available	
<b>Source comprehension</b> → Identifying & rewording 2 points from a source	2 marks	Like the Germany and British exams, your Cold War exam will be 1 hour 15 mins long.  There are 6 different question types, shown here.
<b>Recall of knowledge</b> → Outlining 2 points	4 marks	2 of the 6 questions are source questions.
<b>Source evaluation</b> → Explaining how 2 sources are/aren't useful as evidence of x	10 marks	Similar to British Q4 reliability, but about usefulness instead!
<b>Description of key features</b> → Writing 2 developed points	6 marks	Choice of 2! Same as Germany 1(b) describe Q
<b>Explanation of importance</b> → Explaining how 3 specified events/issues etc. were important in shaping international relations	15 marks	
<b>Explaining causes</b> → explaining 3 reasons why something happened (you're given 2 reasons & need to add one of your own)	13 marks + 3 marks for SPaG	Similar to Germany 16 marker



# QUESTION 1: SOURCE COMPREHENSION (2 MARKS)

Example:

**Study Source A.**

**Source A: From a school textbook, written in 2009. It is describing the Yalta Conference, 1945.**

In spite of the apparent unity at the Yalta Conference, the issue of Poland caused a split to grow	1
between the Big Three – Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill. Stalin wanted a ‘friendly’ Polish government so that	
his country would have some protection from Germany, which had already invaded the USSR twice that	
century. However, Britain and the USA feared that a ‘friendly’ government in Poland would mean a	
communist, Soviet-controlled government. Stalin also wanted the Polish-German border to be much	5
further west than Britain or America were comfortable with.	

**Give two ways in which Source A shows that ‘the issue of Poland caused a split to grow between the Big Three’ (source A line 1). (2 marks)**

- This is a source comprehension question. It is testing whether or not you understand the source shown in the question. It is NOT requiring you to make inferences from the source.
- **You should aim to reword two relevant points shown in the source. This is called paraphrasing. If you directly copy from the source, you will not get the marks.**
- You should write no more than 2 sentences.
- There is no writing frame for this question because you don’t need one – just identify two points from source A and write them down! You do not need to include the wording of the question in your answer.
- The question could ask for ‘two ways in which’, ‘two reasons for’, ‘two effects of’, ‘two reactions to’, ‘two measures taken’ etc.

On your exam paper, there will be a space for you to write your answer looking like this.....

1 .....	So, you really <u>are</u> only expected to write 2 sentences!
.....	
2 .....	
.....	
<b>(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)</b>	

Here’s a sample answer:

- 1 Britain and the USA were worried that Stalin was going to set up a communist government in Poland.
- 2 Stalin wanted to take 25% of Germany and add it to Poland, whereas Britain and the USA thought this was too much.

- ✓ This answer would get full marks—one mark for each point given.
- ✓ Notice how each point is reworded (or ‘paraphrased’) from source A, *not* copied!

## QUESTION 2: OUTLINE TWO..... (4 MARKS)

Example:

**Outline two decisions that were made about Germany at the Potsdam Conference, 1945. (4 marks)**

- This question is testing your ability to recall knowledge.
- ‘Outline’ means: - a statement about a relevant decision made at Potsdam (one sentence) + supporting detail (a second sentence).
- You are asked to outline two decisions, so that means your answer to the question should total 4 sentences.

On your exam paper, there will be a space for you to write your answer looking like this....

1	
2	

**(Total for Question 2 = 4 marks)**

1 relevant statement  
(one sentence)  
+ supporting detail (one sentence)  
  
*Repeat for no. 2*

Here's a sample answer:

1 The Nazi Party would be banned. Surviving Nazis would be tried for war crimes at a special court set up by the Allies at Nuremberg.

2 Germany would lose 25% of its land in the east to Poland. The new eastern border of Germany would be along the Oder-Neisse river.

- 
- ✓ This answer would get full marks—two marks for each point given.
  - ✓ Notice how each point is made up of 2 sentences—the first is a statement; the second adds detail to that statement.



### QUESTION 3: USEFULNESS OF SOURCES (10 MARKS)

Example:

How useful are sources B and C as evidence of the USA's actions during the Berlin Blockade? Explain your answer, using Sources B and C and your own knowledge. (10 marks)







Source B: A photograph of an Allied plane delivering coal supplies to West Berlin in 1948. This photograph was widely publicised by the Allies.



Source C: A British cartoon published 1948. The man holding the gun is Stalin.

Study sources B and C and use your own knowledge. How useful are sources B and C as evidence of \_\_\_\_\_? Explain your answer, using sources B and C and your own knowledge. (10 marks)

Content and N/O/P

<b>Source B</b>  Is useful	<b>Source C</b>  Is useful
 Isn't useful	 Isn't useful

Remember – a source is not useful in itself. It depends what you're looking for! Pay close attention to what the question is asking you – eg. 'as evidence of the USA's actions during the Berlin Blockade'

In some ways source B is useful as evidence of x.

(CONTENT) → For example it says/shows..... This is supported by my own knowledge that... AND/OR (N/O/P) → B is also useful because of its... (nature or origins or purpose). For example....(explain). This is shown by...(back up your point with what you can see in the source).

In some ways, source B is not useful as evidence of x.

(CONTENT) → For example, it says/shows (or doesn't show)....This is inaccurate because I know that.....

AND/OR (N/O/P) → B's usefulness is also limited by its...(nature or origins or purpose). For example...(explain). This is shown by...(back up your point with what you can see in the source).

Repeat for source C.

This question is similar to the reliability Q on the British paper, but it is about usefulness, not reliability. Usefulness is all about the **value** of a source; reliability is about whether or not the source can be trusted. You could consider the reliability of sources B and C when answering this Q, because the reliability of a source can affect its usefulness/ value.

Here's a writing frame (yes, it's almost the same as the British question!)

Here's a sample answer:

In some ways source B is useful as evidence of the USA's actions during the Berlin Blockade. For example, it shows an Allied plane delivering coal supplies to West Berlin. This is supported by my own knowledge that planes from the Western zones of Germany airlifted 4000 tonnes of supplies each day to West Berlin. It began in June 1948 with supplies of food, oil, clothing, coal and more being flown day and night to the 2.1 million citizens of West Berlin.

In some ways source B is not useful. Its usefulness is limited by its purpose. The source says "This photograph was widely publicised by the Allies" which suggests that the photo was taken by one of the Allies to show the USA as a saviour to the people of West Berlin. This affects its usefulness as the photo may exaggerate the USA's actions during the blockade. For example, it might have exaggerated the numbers of men employed in the unloading of cargo from the planes.

In some ways source C is useful. For example, it shows a high volume of birds flying supplies such as food and coal into West Berlin. This is supported by my own knowledge that the Allies airlifted 4000 tonnes of supplies per day, with planes landing as frequently as every 90 seconds.

In some ways, source C is not useful. It doesn't show the range of supplies airlifted to West Berlin by the Allies. Clothing, industrial equipment and hot water bottles were all airlifted into West Berlin, not just the food and coal shown in source C. Also, source C doesn't show us that Truman ordered B29 bombers to the UK, armed with nuclear weapons, putting them within bombing range of the USSR just in case Stalin shot down any planes. The origins of source C also make it less useful. For example, it is a British cartoon which will be on the USA's side and will attempt to make the USA look like saviours and the Russians look like villains. The cartoon shows Stalin pointing a gun at the storks (planes), whereas I know that Stalin didn't actually shoot any planes down, or attempt to. This is deliberately portraying Stalin in a bad light. This makes source C less reliable, so limits its usefulness.

- 
- ✓ This is a full mark answer. It has commented on the usefulness of the sources based on (a) what they say and/or don't say (content) and (b) the nature/origins/purpose of the sources and how this affects reliability, and therefore usefulness
  - ✓ Points are well developed and supported by clear examples of what can be (or can't be) seen in each source
  - ✓ Both sources have been written about
  - ✓ There is use of precise own knowledge about the blockade and airlift. This knowledge has been used to comment on/judge usefulness. (If you don't use your own knowledge in this way, your answer will be capped at a C grade.)



- 
- Aim for one content point, and one N/O/P point for each source
  - The writing frame is just a guide.....For this question, if you think it, write it! If you can only think of content points, don't stress. You can still get a C grade on this Q without looking at any NOP points.
  - You don't have to cover useful *and* not useful points for each source, but it is a good idea to try because it encourages you to make a couple of points about each source, not just one. If one of your points is not valid/not developed enough, you've a second point to fall back on.

## How can the NATURE (type) of a source affect its usefulness?

<i>Diaries</i>	These give a day-to-day eyewitness view, but only one person's view. They may be more honest if they were not written for publication. If written for publication diaries can have an ulterior motive.
<i>Memoirs (autobiography)</i>	These are the views of someone who experienced an event and writing an account of their experiences enables them to be detached and reflect on it. Be careful about generalised statements about memory loss...people tend to remember important events! Like diaries, memoirs can often be a justification of the writer's own actions – very one-sided.
<i>Posters</i>	These reflect views of the time, often of the government, but are one-sided and generally for propaganda purposes.
<i>Photographs</i>	These can give accurate details but are often selective and taken for a purpose. Can give a distorted view, such as the view of the photographer or whoever hired the photographer. They only capture one moment in time—a snapshot. We do not know what may have gone on before or after the photo was taken, or beyond the frame of the photograph.
<i>Cartoons</i>	These can reflect a popular view of the time of a person or event – an 'in joke'. However, cartoons only provide one exaggerated, even distorted, view of the event.
<i>Biography</i>	These are often well researched. However, biographers are often strongly in favour of or against their subject.

## How can the ORIGINS of a source affect its usefulness?

<i>Who produced the source?</i>	Is there the name of an individual or an organisation? What do you know about who produced the source? How could this have shaped the view(s) shown in the source?
<i>When?</i>	What are the advantages and disadvantages of eyewitness accounts? Remember eyewitnesses can get things wrong or have a limited or distorted view of events. Try to avoid generalised statements such as 'eyewitness accounts are always more useful/reliable than those written later': someone writing later could have had more opportunity to check the facts, and is likely to be more objective (less one-sided).
<i>Where? Under what conditions?</i>	Was the source produced in a free society in which the person could give their own views? Was the person forced to follow the government view? If a source has been produced under censorship conditions, it may still be useful as an example of a censored view of the time.

## How can the PURPOSE of a source affect its usefulness?

<i>Speeches</i>	The speaker is trying to convince the audience to do something/to think the same way as them.
<i>Newspapers</i>	These aim to inform, but are also made to sell. This means they can exaggerate/sensationalise news stories.
<i>Posters</i>	For propaganda purposes – to get you to support or oppose a certain view.
<i>Photographs</i>	To give you a particular – often narrow and even distorted – view of an event in order to get your support or turn you against something/someone.
<i>Cartoons</i>	These will usually try to turn you against a person or event by ridicule, mockery and exaggeration.
<i>Films</i>	Unless they are public information films/newsreels, these are designed to entertain and attract audiences. Accuracy can therefore be compromised.



Make sure you develop any NOP points you make in your answer by relating your point to what can be seen (or not seen) in the source. Eg. It is not enough to just say *Source B is less useful because it is from a speech by President Kennedy, so it aims to turn people against Khrushchev*. Develop this by making it clear how this one-sidedness is shown in the source → *For example, source B says.....*

## QUESTION 4: DESCRIBING KEY FEATURES (6 MARKS)

Example:

**Describe the key features of the Truman Doctrine, 1947. (6 marks)**

One key feature of \_\_\_\_\_  
was \_\_\_\_\_.  
+ no more than 3 sentences of  
factual detail to explain.

Repeat for a 2<sup>nd</sup>  
key feature

- By 'key features', the question usually means either causes, events or consequences. Choose points you can confidently develop.
- To get more than 3 marks, you will need to write developed points. This means identifying a key feature in your first sentence, and then adding a few sentences of factual detail to support/develop it.
- Try to start with the key feature, not the factual detail.
- To get full marks, try to write about 2 developed key features...you should end up with 2 paragraphs.
- Start with the wording of the question – this will keep your answer direct, and avoid any irrelevant waffling!
- You will have a choice between two different questions (this is the only question where you get a choice on this paper!)

Here's a sample answer:

One key feature of the Truman Doctrine was that it saw the USA pledging to use military force to contain communism. After the USSR had helped to set up Soviet controlled communist governments across Eastern Europe, Truman became determined to prevent any more countries turning to communism. He therefore said that the USA would send troops to any country threatened with communist takeover. This saw the USA dropping its previous policy of isolationism and becoming much more involved in European affairs.

A second key feature of the Truman Doctrine was that it was partly inspired by events in Greece. In the late 1940s there was a civil war in Greece which involved communists fighting non-communists to take over the country. Britain, who had valuable trading interests in Greece, had been financing the non-communist Greek forces, but could no longer afford to. The USA stepped in, resulting in the defeat of the Greek communists. This encouraged Truman to think that if the USA had been successful in containing communism in Greece, then the principle could be applied elsewhere.

✓ Each paragraph starts with a clear key feature, *then* develops that key feature with factual detail (around 3 sentences).

✓ Two key features are described.

✓ 6/6 marks awarded.

Sometimes, 'describe the key features of...' questions can be more specific. For example: *Describe the key features of the events of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956.* For this question, you need to focus on the events of the uprising itself, rather than the causes or the consequences. Don't get caught out! Underline key phrases in the question to help you focus on what is required.

Also, be aware that the answer booklet in your exam will give you more space than you need. Don't feel pressured to fill the whole space with your answer. And if you're pushed for time, you can get a C grade on this question for one developed key feature.

**CAUTION**



## QUESTION 5: EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF.....

(15 MARKS) *Example:*

Explain the importance of three of the following in international relations. (15)

- the Marshall Plan 1947
- the Truman Doctrine 1947
- the Berlin blockade 1948-49
- the formation of NATO, 1949

\_\_\_\_\_ was important because.....(state a way in which it was important in shaping relations). Then add 3 sentences of factual detail to explain its importance.

Repeat twice more for 2 of the other bullet points.

- This Q is not just asking about the importance of the events, but about their importance *in international relations*. In other words, you will need to explain how each event (3 in total) changed the relationship—either caused tension or improved relations— between the USA/the West and the USSR/the East. This means focusing your answer on the **consequences or results** of the events in the question.
- You should write 3 paragraphs, one about each of the events you've chosen.
- Each bullet point/paragraph will be marked separately out of 5 (total=15), so you could think of this Q as three 5 mark Qs!
- What you should **NOT** do for this Q:
  - × Do **not** forget to focus on the importance of the event
  - × Do **not** write about all 4 bullet points...choose 3!
  - × Do **not** make a judgement about how important each event was – just explain how it was important in changing international relations
  - × Do **not** link your paragraphs
  - × Do **not** compare the importance of the events (no conclusion needed)

Here's a sample answer:

The formation of NATO was important because it resulted in the division of Europe into two rival, heavily armed camps. The organisation, formed between 10 Western European nations, Canada and the USA, showed that the USA was committed to protecting Western Europe from Soviet aggression by military means. NATO's formation was a direct reaction to the Berlin Blockade, therefore Stalin was intimidated that these nations were coming together as one force, willing to defend each other if one was attacked. Stalin saw NATO as an aggressive alliance, and so he retaliated by forming the Warsaw Pact in 1955, which mirrored NATO. Europe was now firmly divided.

- ✓ This paragraph would achieve 5/5 marks. It starts with a statement summing up the importance of NATO, focusing on the consequences/results of NATO being formed.
- ✓ Around 3 sentences of factual detail are then provided to explain and develop that initial statement.



## QUESTION 6: EXPLAIN WHY.... (13 MARKS + 3 MARKS SPAG)

Example:

**Explain why relations between the USA and USSR changed in the years 1948–53. (13 marks)**

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

- The Berlin Blockade
- The formation of NATO

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

One reason why x was \_\_\_\_\_.

For example \_\_\_\_\_ (provide factual detail to explain the reason).

Therefore, this caused x because \_\_\_\_\_ (sum up how the reason caused x to happen).

Add a conclusion for A/A\*

Repeat for the other bullet point + a 3<sup>rd</sup> relevant reason of your own choice.

- The technique for answering this question is similar to the Germany 16 marker
- You will be given two bullet points to write about
- PEE paragraphs are essential – you will need to explain how each cause (reason) led to the outcome (the issue shown in the question)
- You will need to write about a third relevant cause (reason) of your own choice to get higher than a C grade on this Q
- To reach an A, you'll need a conclusion which compares the importance of at least 2 of the causes you've written about
- For an A\*, your conclusion will need to compare the importance of all 3 causes, or explain how they interacted to produce the outcome in the Q
- **You can earn up to 3 additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. This means that if you miss this Q out on the exam, you will lose 16 marks, not 13 marks.**

Here's a sample paragraph looking at one of the above bullet points (Berlin Blockade):

One reason why relations changed was because of the Berlin blockade in 1948-9. Stalin blocked all road, rail and canal access to west Berlin from the western zones of Germany. He did this an attempt to get the Allies to abandon west Berlin, thinking that they would let its 2 million citizens starve, so the USSR could take over the whole of Berlin. However, the Allies airlifted 40000 tonnes of supplies into west Berlin every day for a whole year, until Stalin lifted the blockade. This led to relations changing because the West realised the lengths that Stalin was prepared to go to in order to spread communism, and vowed to defend Europe against future acts of Soviet aggression. In order to guard against this, the USA formed NATO, which intensified rivalry between the superpowers and their allies.



This is a good paragraph. At the start, it identifies a clear reason for relations changing. It then provides factual detail to develop that reason. It finishes with an explanation of how the reason (the Berlin Blockade) led to the outcome (relations changing). These last two sentences show good analysis, focusing on precise consequences of the Blockade for relations between the Superpowers (it doesn't just say 'relations got worse' or 'tension grew', which is not good analysis!)

## GRADE WHAT TO DO ON THE 13 MARK QUESTION

**D- low C** Explain how one cause led to the outcome shown in the Q, supporting your explanation with detailed factual knowledge

**High C** Explain two causes as above

**B** Explain three causes as above – the 2 bullet points + a relevant 3<sup>rd</sup> cause.

**A** Explain three causes as above, and write a conclusion comparing the importance of 2 of these causes (which is more important and why, and why is the other less important)

**A\*** Explain three causes as above, and write a conclusion EITHER comparing the importance of 3 of these causes (which is more important and why, and why are the other 2 less important) OR explaining how all 3 interacted to cause the outcome shown in the Q.

**Writing a conclusion is not essential. You can still reach a B grade on this Q without one.**

*Further examples of 13 marker questions:*

1 Explain why Cuba developed close relations with the Soviet Union in the years 1959–62.

- Castro coming to power • The USSR placing missiles on Cuba

### RECOMMENDED TIMINGS

Q1 source comprehension (2 marks)	5 mins
Q2 outline two (4 marks)	5 mins
Q3 usefulness of sources (10 marks)	15 mins
Q4 describing key features (6 marks)	10 mins
Q5 explain the importance of (15 marks)	20 mins
Q6 explain why (13 marks + 3 SPaG)	20 mins
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1hr 15 mins</b>

2 Explain why Berlin was a Cold War flashpoint in the years 1957–63. ('Flashpoint' means a place or issue which could cause major tension or a 'hot war' between the Superpowers.)

- The failure of the 1960 summit meeting • The Berlin Wall being built

3 Explain why Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968.

- Dubcek's Prague Spring reforms • Pressure from Warsaw Pact countries

4 Explain why détente collapsed in the years 1979–84.

- The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan • Reagan announces the Strategic Defence Initiative