



Exam Technique Booklet

Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941 - 91

Name: _____

Class: _____



Paper 2 Exam Breakdown



CLASSROOM 42

Booklet P: Period Study

1a&b

Explain one consequence of...

How confident do you feel?

Targets: AO1/AO2 Skills: Explaining consequence **4 marks**

2

Write a narrative account analysing the key events in...

How confident do you feel?

Targets: AO1/AO2 Skills: Analytical narrative, causation **8 marks**

3

Explain two of the following...
Explain the importance of X to Y (3 choices)

How confident do you feel?

Targets: AO1/AO2 Skills: Importance/significance **16 marks**

You have 1 hour 50 mins for Paper 2 (sections B and P)

How to answer...

Paper 2P Question 1a&b

4
Marks

Explain one consequence of...

This is how you are marked:

- **2 marks** for **AO2** (analysis of history - for this question, specifically how you explain **consequence**)
- **2 marks** for **AO1** (**knowledge** and **understanding** of the topic)

This means that to achieve full marks on this question you need to:

- **Identify a consequence and explain why it came about**
- **Draw on your knowledge of features of the time period, using specific information to demonstrate your understanding**

There are two 4 mark 'explain one consequence of' questions - these will be on separate topics and will be marked separately



Grade 9 Answer

Consequence Question

4/4
Marks

Question:

Explain one consequence of Gorbachev's 'new thinking'. (4 marks)

Answer:

One consequence of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' was the increase in political and social freedoms in the Soviet Union. The policy of Glasnost aimed to make the government more transparent and allowed Soviet citizens greater freedom of speech, including the ability to criticize the government and discuss previously taboo subjects like the failures of past policies. This openness led to a surge in public debate, political activism, and demands for further reforms. It also exposed deep dissatisfaction with the Soviet system, which contributed to unrest and a loss of faith in the Communist Party.

Feedback:

This answer would get 4/4 marks because the pupil has identified a consequence (increase in freedoms), and has analysed the consequence using specific information, showing good understanding of the period.

How to answer... Paper 2P Question 2

8
Marks

Write a narrative account analysing the key events in...

3 (L)PEEL paragraphs: 1 on first point given, 1 on second point given and 1 on your own idea
(These need to be in chronological order)

L - Link (only paragraph 2 & 3)

P - Point

E - Evidence

E - Explain

L - Link

Link - Only needed for paragraph 2 & 3, link to previous point -
As a result of [previous event]...

Point - The first/second/final key event of [event in question]
was ...

Make sure to do one paragraph for each of the given points, and
one paragraph on a point of your own, in the order that they
happend

Evidence - Stats, Places, Events, Names, Dates

Explain - Show how this evidence links your point to the event
in the question

Link - Link to the event in next paragraph, or in the final
paragraph link to overall outcome of the event in the question

Does not need a separate introduction and conclusion



Grade 9 Answer

Narrative Account Question

8/8
Marks

Question:

Write a narrative account analysing the key events in the early tensions between East and West in the years 1941-58.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Yalta Conference (1945)
- Long and Novikov Telegrams

You must also use information of your own.

(8 marks)

Answer:

Firstly, early tension between East and West in the years 1941-58 was caused by the Yalta Conference in 1945. The conference with USA, USSR and Britain agreed to split up Germany after its defeat into four occupation zones, with one zone being controlled by France, USA, Britain and the USSR. The Allies also agreed to set up the United Nations, an international organisation for co-operation and peace. Relations between the leaders were amicable and there seemed to be some mutual trust. Roosevelt believed that Stalin would not expand Soviet territory beyond Poland, but Stalin had no intention of keeping his promises, and expanded Soviet influence past Poland. This increased tensions between the East and West because leaders made promises they could not keep, setting a precedent of dishonesty.

This precedent of dishonesty led to increased tensions between the East and West with the Long and Novikov Telegrams. In Feb 1946 George Kannan, an American diplomat working in Moscow, sent the Long Telegram to diplomats in the USA explaining that peaceful coexistence with USSR was not going to be possible, and that the US should adopt a policy of containment. This meant that Truman took a tougher stance against the USSR. Novikov was the Soviet ambassador to the USA and in Sept 1946 sent a telegram to Stalin in response to the Long telegram, telling him that USA were preparing for war to become a global supremacy. Both powers suspected the other was planning a war against them, and the cooperative relationship they shared during World War Two was officially over.

Tensions increased further from 1946-49 between the East and West through the satellite states. As a result of these telegrams, the USSR strengthened its control over Eastern Europe by bringing 15 Soviet Socialist Republics, also known as satellite states, under its control. Stalin rigged elections, intimidated politicians and unleashed violence on countries such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Poland. By 1948, the whole of Eastern Europe had communist governments under Moscow's control. This cemented the Cold War and further increased tensions between the East and the West.

Feedback:

This answer would get 8/8 marks because the pupil has identified 3 key events in the increased tensions between East and West (Yalta Conference, Telegrams and Satellite States). They have explained each point in depth using historical information, and written the events in chronological order, using links between the points.



How to answer... Paper 2P Question 3

2x 8
Marks

Explain two of the following... Explain the importance of X to Y

This question is two 8-mark responses. It targets **AO1** and **AO2**. For each response:

- **4 marks** for **AO1** (knowledge and understanding of the topic)
- **4 marks** for **AO2** (analysis of history - for this question, specifically how you explain importance / significance)

For each response, complete these two steps:

- 1) Demonstrate your **knowledge** of X using relevant and specific information
Demonstrate your **understanding** by situating it in the larger **context** of Y (how is it related to this wider topic/event?)
- 2) Use this evidence to clearly **explain why** X is **important** to Y

The key to this question is choosing **information that is relevant to your question** - for each piece of information, you should be able to **explain how it made X important specifically to Y**

In the exam you will choose two 8-mark 'Importance' questions to answer separately



Grade 9 Answer

Explain Importance

8/8
Marks

Question:

Explain the importance of the Berlin Blockade (1948–49) for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (8 marks)

Answer:

The Berlin Blockade (1948–49) was important for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union because it significantly escalated Cold War tensions and solidified the division between East and West Germany. After World War II, Germany was divided into zones controlled by the Allied powers, with Berlin, located within the Soviet zone, similarly split into Allied sectors. In response to Western plans to establish a separate West German state and introduce a new currency, Stalin attempted to force the Western Allies out of Berlin by blocking all rail, road, and canal access to the city. This led the Western Allies, led by the USA, to organize the Berlin Airlift, flying in food, fuel, and supplies to support the citizens of West Berlin. The airlift lasted nearly a year, demonstrating U.S. commitment to opposing Soviet expansion and supporting the people of Berlin. This successful operation humiliated the Soviet Union, as it failed to force Western powers out of Berlin.

The blockade and subsequent airlift also solidified Germany's division and marked a turning point in U.S.-Soviet relations. Following the blockade, the Western Allies established the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) in 1949, while the Soviets created the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), formalizing Germany's division. This event directly led to the formation of NATO in 1949, as Western powers sought to create a collective security arrangement to counter any further Soviet aggression. Thus, the Berlin Blockade not only heightened hostilities between the superpowers but also led to the division of Europe into two opposing military and ideological blocs, setting the stage for the prolonged Cold War that followed.

Feedback:

This answer would get 8/8 marks because the pupil has explained and analysed the importance and included accurate and relevant knowledge.

