

Name:



Edexcel GCSE
Paper 2: Period study

Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-1991



The Grand Alliance

The Grand Alliance was formed between the USA, the Soviet Union and Britain to defeat Germany and Japan in WWII. However, this alliance disguised their serious ideological differences. The USA and Britain were capitalist and the Soviet Union was communist. The leaders of these nations met three times during the war.

Tehran, November 1943

Setting	Stalin , Churchill, and Roosevelt met in Tehran to plan a winning strategy to end the war.
Agreements made	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stalin would declare war against Japan, but only once the war in Europe was over.An international body should be set up to settle disputes through discussion and negotiation.
Consequences	Britain and the US welcomed the promise of military support against Japan following the war in Europe and were satisfied that Stalin seemed onside. The meeting set the foundations for the United Nations which would be set up following the war and provide a vehicle for discussions of international relations in the tense Cold War atmosphere.

Yalta, Feb 45

Setting	Big Three hold a second meeting to discuss winning the war.
Agreements made	<ul style="list-style-type: none">After the war, Germany would be split into four zones. Germany would pay \$20 billion in reparations.Stalin agreed that future governments of countries in Eastern Europe would be decided in free elections.
Consequences	

Potsdam, 1945

Setting	Truman, Attlee and Stalin meet. Germany has surrendered.
Agreements made	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Germany would be divided into four zones. Berlin would also be divided into zones.Agreement was not reached over the government of Eastern Europe. Truman objected to the control the Soviet Union had over the countries it had liberated.
Consequences	



Exam Practice

- Explain two consequences of the decisions made by the Grand Alliance at the Potsdam Conference in Feb 45. (8 marks)

Early tensions

Truman and Stalin feared the break-up of the Grand Alliance may lead to future conflict. They wanted to know what their rivals were thinking and in 1946 both asked their embassies to report on attitudes in each other's countries.

Name of telegram:

Novikov Telegram

Who sent it:

What did it say:



Name of telegram:

The Long Telegram

Who sent it:

What did it say:



The Soviet Red Army had freed many countries from the Nazis. When the war was over Stalin was reluctant to give up control of these countries and turned them into satellite states with communist governments and little independence from the Soviet Union.

What is a satellite state?

Why did Stalin not want to give up control of these countries?



For example, in Hungary in the 1947 election voters were intimidated in a campaign supported by Moscow and a Communist Party was elected.

Exam Practice


- Explain two consequences of the 1946 telegrams. (8 marks)

HINT- U.S. believed the Soviet Union was not suicidal

HINT- Soviet Union believed the USA no longer wanted to cooperate

Growing divide



	What is it?	Why was it set up?/Why was it developed?
Truman Doctrine		
Marshall Plan		
Dollar imperialism	Stalin's belief that the USA was trying to use money and economic power to divide Europe.	This was what Stalin called the Marshall Plan.
Cominform		
Comecon	Set up in 1949 it provided trade and credit agreements between the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.	This was Stalin's response to the Marshall Plan. It aimed to support economic development in its member states.
NATO		
Warsaw Pact		This was a response to NATO. It was a communist defensive military alliance.

Explain one consequence of the Truman Doctrine.



1948 Berlin Crisis

Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the 1948 Berlin Crisis
8 marks

You may include the following in your answer:

- Stalin's fears
- The airlift

Narrative Question Guidance
Sort your paragraphs into chronological order.
Link each together!
Tick off each box as you go through

Paragraph One
Introduce the first event
Explain using specific detail (dates/facts)
Use phrases such as 'this led to'
Make a link to the next event

Paragraph Two
Introduce the next event
Explain using specific detail (dates/facts)
Be analytical
Use phrases such as 'as a result'
Make a link to the next event

Paragraph Three
Introduce the third event
Explain using specific detail (dates/facts)
Be analytical

After the Second World War, Germany was divided into the Soviet zone and three western zones but Berlin, in the middle of the Soviet zone, was also divided into the Soviet East Berlin and West Berlin occupied by the western powers. Having part of West Berlin in the middle of East Germany was annoying and also a concern for Stalin that it could be used by the West but also the Soviets did not want East Berliners being able to see life in West Berlin. As a result of this, the USSR blocked land routes to West Berlin in the Berlin Blockade to try and force the West to handover West Berlin. To keep West Berlin supplied, the USA and Britain began the Berlin Airlift which eventually led to Stalin ending the blockade and as a result West Berlin was now seen as securely held by the West.

Improve the answer above

The answer lacks specific details and does not have three clear, fully described events.

Remember for a narrative question:

- Pick three key events.
- Put them into chronological order
- Use specific details and facts
- Make sure you connect the three paragraphs/events together with linking phrases.

Which three parts/events of the Berlin Crisis 48 are you going to focus on:

-
-
-

The arms race

Since developing the atomic bomb in 1945, the US had felt secure knowing it was the only country in the world with such a powerful weapon. However, by 1949 the Soviet Union had developed the atomic bomb.



1945- USA develops the atomic bomb



1952- USA tests the hydrogen bomb



1957 USA tests the inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM)



1949- Soviet Union develops the atomic bomb



1953- Soviet Union tests the hydrogen bomb



1957- Soviet Union makes first successful ICBM launch

From 1953 both the USA and the Soviet Union had new leaders. Eisenhower became president in 1953. Stalin died in 1953. It took until 1956 for Krushchev to emerge as the leader. The change in leadership made people hopeful that tensions would be reduced.

Exam Practice

- Explain two consequences of the arms race. (8 marks)
- HINT- Think about how it increased tensions.
- HINT- Think about how it may have prevented war through mutually assured destruction.

Test yourself

1. Who were the leaders at the Potsdam conference?
2. What were the two telegrams, sent in 1946, called?
3. Give an example of a satellite state.
4. How much aid did the Marshall plan provide?
5. When was the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) formed?



The Hungarian Uprising

Causes

During 1956 the people of Hungary began to protest about:

- Lack of political freedom
- Problems caused by fuel shortages
- Problems caused by poor harvests.

Soviets restore order but Khrushchev decided to replace Rakosi with Nagy.

Nagy

Nagy believed that within a communist regime there should still be some freedoms. He introduced a number of reforms including:

- Ending the one party state in Hungary
- Withdrawing Soviet troops from Hungary

However, Nagy announced that Hungary would leave the Warsaw Pact. Khrushchev could not allow this, other Eastern European countries may want to follow.

Khrushchev and his response

Khrushchev ordered a Soviet invasion of Hungary. 1000 tanks rolled into Budapest.

Supporters of Nagy protested and begged the West for support but none came. The invading Soviet army acted with brutality and up to 20,000 Hungarians were killed.

International reaction

When Nagy proposed leaving the Warsaw Pact, he and his fellow rebels expected support from the USA. Radio Free Europe, a US funded radio station, had been urging the people of Eastern Europe to rise up. However, no military support was offered. A military attack could trigger nuclear war.

Impact

- Khrushchev's position was more secure and strengthened within the Warsaw Pact. Members knew they must do as told.
- The uprising reflected badly on the West. The USA and its allies had not backed up their words with military support.
- Tensions between the two nations grew and the USA strongly opposed the invasion of Hungary.

Exam Practice

- Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Hungarian Uprising (8 marks)
- Explain two consequences of the Hungarian Uprising (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Hungarian uprising for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union (8 marks- half a 16 mark question)

Berlin 58-63

By 1958 Germany had a major **refugee crisis**. Many East Germans chose to leave home and move to West Germany. They knew the quality of life there was much higher. By 1958, three million East Germans had crossed to the West. Many were skilled workers, teachers and engineers. This was a disaster for East Germany.



I know what I'll do! I'll issue an ultimatum

Khrushchev decided the answer was for the whole of Berlin to become part of East Germany. On 27th November he issued his Berlin ultimatum. He demanded that Berlin should be demilitarised and Berlin should be a free city. He gave the West six months to make the changes or he would hand over control of all routes into Berlin to the government of East Germany.

A series of talks were held to discuss the Berlin issue. These are just two of the summits.

Paris Summit, May 1960

Prior to the summit the Soviets had shot down an American U-2 spy plane as it flew over the Soviet Union. The Americans tried to claim it was a weather plane blown off-course. Eisenhower was embarrassed but refused to apologise. Khrushchev walked out the meeting with no decisions being made.

Vienna Summit, June 1961

JFK became president of the US. Khrushchev believed that he could get the better of him. Khrushchev took a tough stance and renewed the Berlin ultimatum. Kennedy refused to make any concessions and the summit ended with no decision on Berlin. After Vienna, Kennedy increased spending on the US armed forces.

Exam Practice

- Explain two consequences of the German refugee crisis. (8 marks)

HINT- Consider the Berlin ultimatum

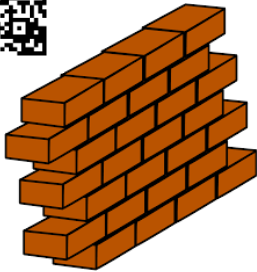
HINT- Think about the building of the wall

Test yourself

1. What is an ICBM?
2. What was the Truman Doctrine?
3. Which countries joined NATO?
4. Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during the Hungarian Uprising?
5. Why did the Soviet Union invade Hungary?

Berlin 58-63

As tensions between the East and West grew so did the number of East Germans crossing to the West. On the night of 12th August 1961, East German troops built a barbed wire fence around Berlin and between East and West Berlin. Soon work on a concrete wall which would stretch 165km began.



What was the impact of the wall on Berlin?

Negative outcomes

Positive outcomes

Soviet Union

- Khrushchev abandoned his plans to unite Germany under Soviet control.
-

- The Wall stopped refugees leaving for the West through East Berlin.
-

USA

- The Soviet Union had closed the border without consulting the USA.
-

●

●

Exam Practice

- Explain the importance of the building of the Berlin Wall for the development of the Cold War. (8 marks- half a 16 marker)
HINT- Make sure you **EXPLAIN** rather than simply describing.

Cuban Missile Crisis

Cuban Revolution

In January 1959, a group of revolutionaries, led by Fidel Castro toppled the pro-American government of Cuba. The USA was not happy. Castro was a nationalist who did not want his country's economy to be under American control.



Bay of Pigs

Kennedy did not want a Communist ally so close to American territory. The CIA trained a group of Cuban exiles to launch an invasion. 1400 landed at the 'Bay of Pigs' in Cuba. The attempted coup was a failure. 20,000 Cuban soldiers were waiting.

In October 62, an American U-2 spy plane took pictures of launch pads for missiles in Cuba. They could carry nuclear warheads capable of reaching US cities. President Kennedy was informed a fleet of Soviet ships was sailing to Cuba carrying the missiles. Kennedy called together an Executive Committee (ExComm) to discuss how the US should react.

Sink the Soviet ships?

Bomb the missile sites?



Invade Cuba?

A naval blockade?

What did Kennedy decide to do?

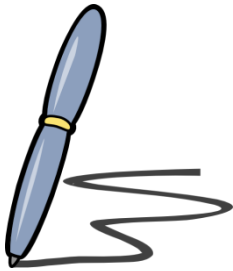
What did America agree to do in return?



Consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis had made it apparent what could happen if the Soviet Union or the USA continued to threaten one another. Both countries wanted to make sure that future misunderstandings would not cause war to break out.

The Hotline



Test Ban Treaty

The Outer Space Treaty



Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Exam Practice

- Explain two consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis (8 marks)
- Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Cuban Missile Crisis. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union (8 marks - half a 16 marker)

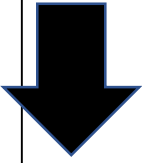
The Prague Spring



Causes

Protests against the low standard of living and lack of freedom grew. Student demonstrations in 1966 showed how unpopular the government was.

- Life under communist rule was difficult for the Czech people. The country was, in effect, controlled by the Soviet Union.
- There was no freedom of speech and radio, newspapers and television were censored.
- On Stalin's orders the Czech government carried out purges of democratic politicians, military leaders, Catholics and Jews.



Dubcek and the Prague Spring

Dubcek became head of the Czech government in 68. He was committed to the Warsaw Pact and communism. However, he thought a communist government should offer 'socialism with a human face'.

He introduced reforms known as the Prague Spring. These included:

- Censorship was relaxed
- Trade unions were given wider powers
- Trade with the West was increased.

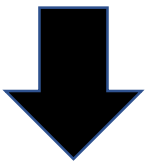
Brezhnev disapproved of many of these reforms. He worried Warsaw Pact countries would want similar reforms.



Soviet reaction

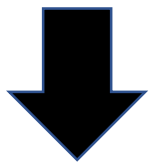
When Dubcek invited Tito of Yugoslavia (a communist country not under Soviet control) to Prague, Brezhnev decided to take action.

500,000 Warsaw Pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia and ended the 'Prague Spring'. Dubcek was removed from power.



Impact

- The Brezhnev Doctrine was formulated. Brezhnev said that the actions of any individual communist country affected all communist countries. Therefore all communist countries would be prevented from introducing reforms that made the country more liberal.
- The communist parties of Italy and France cut links to Moscow.
- The governments of East Germany and Poland welcomed Brezhnev's actions. They felt more secure they wouldn't be challenged by reformers.
- The USA and other Western governments were outraged and strongly condemned the action.
- The Soviet Union saw that while the USA may make protests it would not take direct action to oppose the Soviet Union in Europe.



Exam Practice

- Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Prague Spring (8 marks)
- Explain two consequences of the Prague Spring (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Prague Spring for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union (8 marks- half a 16 mark question)

Detente

During the 1970s there was a genuine attempt to have a more co-operative and stable relationship. This policy has been referred to as détente.



Why pursue detente?



Soviet Union

Détente

Both countries:

- Can spend less on nuclear weapons
- Have more money and time to concentrate on other issues.

USA

One of the most important agreements between the USA and Soviet Union during détente was the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT 1) signed in 1972.

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty stated they were only allowed at two sites.

The Interim Treaty placed restrictions on the number of ICBMs each country could have.

The Basic Principles Agreement laid down rules for the conduct of nuclear warfare and set out steps for avoiding a nuclear war.



Positives

It was of great symbolic importance. Both the USA and Soviet Union wanted to reach agreements and demonstrate their better relations publicly.

Negatives



Test yourself

1. Who were the presidents of the USA from 1958 to 1970?
2. When did Castro gain power in Cuba?
3. What was the 'Bay of Pigs' incident?
4. Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during the Prague Spring?
5. How did the Soviet Union react to the Prague Spring?



Détente continued

Helsinki Accords, 1975

In 1973, 33 nations from NATO and the Warsaw Pact met to build on the spirit of cooperation which had been established in SALT 1.

In August 1975, an announcement was made to say agreement had been reached in three areas, which were described as baskets. The Helsinki Accord was the high point of détente. It seemed to mark the dawn of a new approach to international relations.

European borders:

Borders are inviolable, they cannot be altered by force.



International cooperation:

We will continue to work for closer relations between Western and Soviet-controlled countries. This will include trade agreements and a joint space mission.



Human rights:

We will respect human rights and individual freedoms such as free speech, religion, and movement across Europe.



SALT 2

Talks working towards a second Salt continued until 79 when Carter and Brezhnev signed a highly complex and technical agreement. It included restrictions on missile launchers and strategic bombers.

Fading good relations?

The improved relations between the Soviet Union and the USA were beginning to fade. This was for a number of reasons:

- In the USA there was growing belief the Soviet government could not be trusted. There had been an increase in Soviet support for communist groups in countries such as El Salvador.
- In 1979, Islamic militants captured the American embassy in Tehran. Many angry Americans wanted to see an end to détente and for America to restore its position as a powerful nation.
- Within President Carter's own administration, advisors called for a stronger stance to be taken.
- In December 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, bringing the period of détente to an end.

Exam Practice

Write a narrative account analysing the key events of détente in the years 1970-79. You may use the following in your answer:

- SALT 1, 1972
- The Helsinki Accords, 1975

Miss Lamb, SHS

8 marks

Invasion of Afghanistan

Causes

- Afghanistan was viewed as an important neighbour.
- In 1979, a revolution in Iran replaced the Shah with a Muslim fundamentalist government.
- Moscow was determined not to let Muslim fundamentalism spread across its borders.

Build up to the invasion

- In April 1978, a pro-Soviet government took control in Afghanistan. However, it was toppled in 1979 when Amin staged a popular coup.
- At first Moscow supported Amin but when Brezhnev heard rumours Amin was talking to the USA he decided to act.

The invasion

- In 1979 Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan. They claimed they had been invited by Amin.
- However, Amin was assassinated and replaced by the pro-Soviet Kamal.
- The Soviets remained in Afghanistan for ten years.

The American reaction

- The Americans believed that this was an example of the Soviet Union attempting to spread communism abroad.
- President Carter claimed it was the biggest threat to world peace since the end of the Second World War.
- Carter withdrew Salt 2 from the Senate and increased spending on arms.
- He said that the USA would repel by force, if necessary, any threat to American interests in the Persian Gulf.

Draw a mind map of the consequences of the invasion

Consequences
of the Soviet
invasion

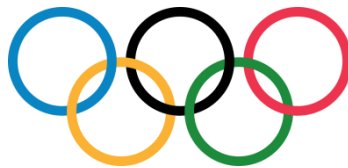
Olympic boycott

In protest to the invasion of Afghanistan, the USA led a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. Over 60 nations supported the US boycott. Relations were so poor that even four years later in 1984 the Soviet Union led a boycott of the Olympic Games, which was held in Los Angeles.

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the Truman doctrine for international relations after the Second World War
- The importance of the building of the Berlin Wall for the development of the Cold War
- The importance of the Olympic boycotts for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union

16 marks



The Olympic boycotts were very important. At this time relations between the USA and the Soviet Union were getting worse. They became even worse when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. So the Americans wanted to punish the Soviet Union. They did this by persuading lots of countries not to attend the Moscow Olympics in 1980. That really upset the Soviet Union because it was hoping to use the Olympics to show everyone how great communism was and how successful athletes from Warsaw Pact countries were (so proving that communist society was better).

The Soviet Union was really upset about the boycotts and got its revenge four years later when it led a boycott of the Olympics being held in Los Angeles. So the Cold War got colder.

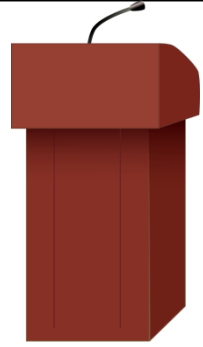
This is an average answer because it does not provide enough **explanation** of what the impact of the boycotts was. It is also short on specific information to support the answer.

Using this feedback, rewrite this answer.

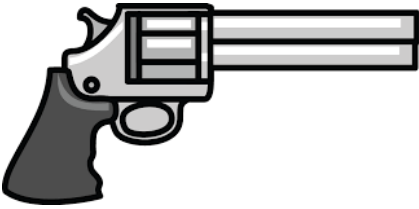
Reagan

Reagan's tougher approach towards the Soviet Union led to a period of tense and hostile relations that is often referred to as the 'Second Cold War'.

1983 'Evil empire' speech



Armed forces spending



Reagan Doctrine



Strategic Defence Initiative



Test yourself

1. What was the Carter Doctrine?
2. How was SDI meant to work?
3. What was MAD?
4. Why was SALT 2 withdrawn from the USA Senate?
5. What were the three baskets of the Helsinki Accords?



Gorbachev's new thinking

Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union in March 1985. At the time, the Soviet Union was facing a number of serious problems.

	Pre-Gorbachev	Gorbachev's new thinking
Arms spending	During the Brezhnev era, huge sums were spent on developing arms to keep pace with the USA, yet investment in the Soviet economy was low. There was barely any industrial growth.	
Standard of living	Low standards of living and the lack of human rights were leading to unrest in some satellite states.	The Soviet state and economy would be reformed to include some of the practices that made capitalism successful. This was perestroika.
Leadership	The Soviet Union had suffered from poor leadership. Many leaders had poor health included Brezhnev who died after a long illness.	
Brezhnev Doctrine	Soviet troops continued to carry out manoeuvres along the Polish border. Opposition to communist rule was kept in check by the tight control of secret police forces such as the Stasi.	The Brezhnev Doctrine would now be dropped. The Soviet Union would no longer get involved in the domestic affairs of other communist countries.

Perestroika:

Glasnost:



New thinking in action

During the first four years of Gorbachev's leadership, significant steps were made to bring about further limitations on nuclear weapons.

Washington Summit, 1987

Gorbachev accepted the Americans were not going to scrap SDI.

This was the first US-Soviet summit that led to a formal treaty. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty which abolished intermediate range land-based missiles.

Malta Summit, 1989

At Malta, Gorbachev met with the new American president, George Bush.

No new agreements were made, but both the USA and Soviet Union saw this meeting as marking the end of the Cold War.

Once Gorbachev had announced that the Soviet Union was giving up the Brezhnev Doctrine, the Soviet satellite states were free to choose how they would be governed.

May 1989: Hungary

The government takes down the border with non-communist Austria. It promises a new democratic government.



November 1989: Czechoslovakia

The 'Velvet Revolution' overthrows the communist government.

What was Gorbachev's 'new thinking'?

Exam Practice

Explain two consequences of Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to abandon the Brezhnev Doctrine.

Miss Lamb, SHS

8 marks

The end of the Cold War

	What happened?
Berlin Wall	
Warsaw Pact	The Pact, a symbol of Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe, was formally dissolved in 1991. The events of 1989 saw communist governments coming under pressure across Eastern Europe and made it impossible for the Warsaw Pact to survive.
Satellite states	
Soviet leader	Losing control over the Soviet satellites played a major part in the downfall of Gorbachev in the Soviet Union. Hard-line communists blamed him for losing control over Eastern Europe and threatening Soviet security. In 1991 the communist hardliners staged a coup against Gorbachev. His resignation in 1991 was followed by the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Exam Practice

Write a narrative account analysing the key events leading to the break-up of the Warsaw Pact in the years 1985-1991.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union in 1985
- The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989

8 marks

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the nuclear arms race for relations between the USA and Soviet Union
- The importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for relations between the USA and Soviet Union
- The importance of Ronald Reagan for relations between the USA and Soviet Union

Miss Lamb, SHS

16 marks

Revision

- Make mind maps on key topics and events. At first use your book and notes to do this. Then try and do it from memory. Go back and add anything you forgot.
- Make quizzes on key dates, names, and events. You can do this on pen and paper or on apps such as quizlet.
- Bullet point key information on an event
- Summarise each page of this booklet onto just one post-it note
- Plan your answers to past questions
- Answer past questions under timed conditions
- Write your own past questions using those below as a guide
- Use GCSE podcasts. If you search for 'GCSE superpowers' or 'GCSE crime and punishment' on itunes or youtube there's plenty to choose from.

Questions published by Edexcel

- Explain two consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis 8 marks
- Explain two consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979) 8 marks

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

You may use the following in your answer:

- Alexander Dubcek
 - Soviet control
- 8 marks

Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Berlin Crisis, 1948-49

You may use the following in your answer:

- Stalin's fears
 - The Airlift
- 8 marks

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the events in Hungary in 1956 for the development of the Cold War
 - The importance of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia (1968) for relations between the US and Soviet Union
 - The importance of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' for Soviet control of Eastern Europe
- 16 marks

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the Truman Doctrine (1947) for the development of the Cold War
 - The importance of the construction of the Berlin Wall for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union in the years 1961-63
 - The importance of the Helsinki Agreements (1975) for superpower relations
- 16 marks