

Key topic 3: The end of the Cold War, 1970–91

REVISED

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Exam focus

- Question 1: Consequence
- Question 2: Narrative account
- Question 3: Importance

Revision techniques

Answers

Key topic 1 The origins of the Cold War, 1941–58

The **Cold War** began in 1945–46 following the Second World War. Ideological differences between the **superpowers** led to clashes over Berlin and the formation of rival military blocs. The Cold War intensified with the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956.

1 Early tension between East and West 1

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1.1 The ideological differences between the superpowers

Ideological differences caused mistrust between the superpowers, and meant they had different aims about post-war Europe. The USA feared the spread of communism; the Soviet Union wanted communist satellite states to prevent future invasions.

	Communism (Soviet Union)	Capitalism (USA)
Politics	Only one political party – the Communist Party	Several parties – voters choose and change their governments
Economy	All industry and businesses owned by the state for the benefit of everyone Everyone equal	Most industry and businesses privately owned Some will be wealthier than others
Influence	Encourage communism in other countries	Encourage trade with other countries

Key terms

Cold War War waged against an enemy by every means short of fighting each other. Used to describe the relationship between the USA and Soviet Union 1945–91

Grand Alliance Alliance of the Soviet Union, USA and Britain during the Second World War

Reparations Compensation to be paid to other countries by Germany after the Second World War

Superpower A country or state that has great global power – in 1945, the USA and Soviet Union

United Nations Organisation International body set up in 1945 to promote peace and international cooperation and security

1.2 The Grand Alliance

The leaders of the **Grand Alliance** met in three conferences, where differences emerged.

The Tehran Conference, 1943

The first meeting of the Big Three – Stalin (leader of the Soviet Union), Roosevelt (US president) and Churchill (British prime minister). It was agreed:

- A second front would be opened in France in May 1944.
- The Soviet Union would enter the war against Japan after Germany's defeat.
- A **United Nations Organisation** would be set up after the war.
- Poland's post-war borders would be along the Oder and Neisse rivers; adding an area of eastern Poland to the Soviet Union.

The Yalta Conference, February 1945

Agreements at the conference	Disagreements at the conference
The Declaration of Liberated Europe – to aid all peoples liberated from Nazi control	Stalin wanted a higher figure of German reparations than Roosevelt or Churchill
The Soviet Union would enter the war against Japan after Germany's defeat	Stalin wanted the Polish border to be further west and a 'friendly' Polish government. But he agreed to free elections
To divide Germany and Berlin into four zones	
To hunt down and try Nazi war criminals	
To allow free elections in countries liberated from German occupation	
Setting up a United Nations Organisation	

The attitudes of Stalin, Truman and Churchill

- Roosevelt died in April 1945 and the new president, Truman, distrusted Stalin. He was convinced that the Soviet Union intended to take over Europe and he was determined to stand up to Stalin.
- Stalin suspected that the West did not want a strong Soviet Union. He wanted Soviet-controlled communist governments in Eastern Europe as a defence against future attacks. Before the Potsdam Conference the USA had successfully tested the atomic bomb. Stalin was furious that Truman hadn't consulted him. He thought that the USA was using the bomb as a warning.
- Churchill was suspicious of Stalin's motives. He thought that Soviet troops would remain in the Eastern European countries they had liberated from the Germans.

Clement Attlee replaced Churchill as British prime minister during the Potsdam Conference.

Exam tip

Students often confuse the key features of the Yalta and Potsdam conferences. Ensure you know who attended and what was agreed at each.

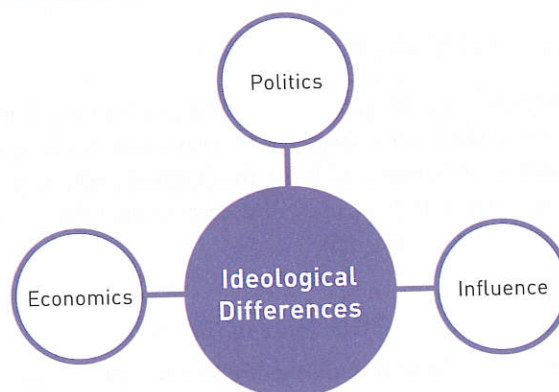
The Potsdam Conference, July 1945

Agreements at the conference	Disagreements at the conference
To divide Germany and Berlin into four zones Germany to pay reparations in equipment and materials De-Nazification: Nazi Party banned; Nazis removed from important positions; leading Nazis put on trial for war crimes To move Poland's border west – along the Oder and Neisse rivers Full participation in the United Nations Organisation	Stalin wanted massive compensation from Germany. Truman refused, seeing a revived Germany as a possible barrier to future Soviet expansion Truman wanted free elections in Eastern European countries occupied by Soviet troops. Stalin did not



Memory map

Create a memory map to show the main ideological differences between the USA and the Soviet Union. Add some key words from the information on page 4 and your own knowledge to a copy of the diagram in this box. Highlight which differences you think were most important in causing the Cold War.



Organising knowledge

Using the information on pages 4 and 5, copy and complete the table below to summarise the key features of the conferences held between the Grand Alliance during and after the Second World War and to make a judgement on how important they were in causing tensions between the superpowers.

	Tehran	Yalta	Potsdam
Points agreed			
Areas of disagreement			
Importance in causing tensions			

2 Early tension between East and West 2

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2.1 The creation of Soviet satellite states

In the years immediately following the end of the Second World War, the Soviet Union expanded its influence in Eastern Europe. This expansion was due to the Soviet desire for security. The Soviet Union had been invaded by Germany on two occasions – 1914 and 1941 – and had suffered huge casualties in the ensuing world wars. **Stalin** created Soviet-controlled states in Eastern Europe as a buffer against future invasions.

- Elections were held in each Eastern European country but were rigged to ensure that Soviet-controlled Communist parties took over.
- By 1948, Soviet **satellite states** with communist governments were established across Eastern Europe (see box).

Soviet satellite states

Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany (from 1949 the German Democratic Republic), Hungary, Poland, Romania.

Consequences

- Security for the Soviet Union. Eastern Europe could now act as a buffer against a possible future invasion from the West.
- Increased rivalry. The USA, Britain and France believed that Stalin's motives were political – the expansion of the Soviet empire and communism throughout Europe, as shown in Long telegram.
- The Soviet Union now had control of Eastern Europe. This confirmed the divisions between East and West stated in Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech.

'Iron Curtain' speech

In March 1946, **Winston Churchill** made a speech in the small town of Fulton in the USA saying that 'an iron curtain has descended across the continent of Europe'. This became known as the Iron Curtain speech, the Iron Curtain being an imaginary line that divided the communist East from the capitalist West in Europe.

2.2 The Long and Novikov telegrams

In 1946, two telegrams worsened relations between the superpowers.

The Long telegram

George Kennan was the USA's Deputy Chief of Mission at the US embassy in Moscow. He saw the Soviet Union as aggressive and suspicious and recommended firm action against Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe. His telegram, which became known as the Long telegram, greatly influenced **Truman's** policies in the Cold War, especially his policy of **containment**.

Novikov telegram

The Soviet Union knew about the Long Telegram. It retaliated with the Novikov telegram. This was written by Nikolai Novikov, the Soviet ambassador to the USA. He accused the USA of trying to achieve world dominance.

Key terms

Containment US policy to use its influence and military resources to prevent the spread of communism into non-communist countries

Satellite state A country under the influence or control of another state

Revision task

- 1 Using pages 4 and 6, create a timeline showing the key developments in relations between the superpowers in the years 1943–46.
- 2 Make a list of the consequences of the creation of Soviet-controlled satellite states in Eastern Europe.

Key individuals

Winston Churchill

An experienced British politician who was appointed prime minister in 1940, and replaced by Clement Attlee in 1945. He was strongly opposed to communism

Joseph Stalin Succeeded Lenin as leader of the Soviet Union. He served as leader until his death in 1953. He was determined to prevent another invasion of the Soviet Union from the West

Harry S. Truman

US president, April 1945 to January 1953. He was strongly opposed to the spread of communism

Eliminate irrelevance

- 1 Below are an exam-style question and part of an answer. Some parts of the answer aren't relevant to the question. Identify these and draw a line through the information that is irrelevant, justifying your deletions in the margin.

Explain two consequences of the creation of Soviet-controlled satellite states in Eastern Europe.

The Soviet Union took control of the countries in Eastern Europe by rigging elections to ensure that Soviet-controlled Communist parties took over. These countries included Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

One of the consequences of the creation of these states was security for the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union had been invaded from the west by Germany on two occasions, in 1914 and 1941, and had suffered huge casualties during the ensuing world wars. Stalin created Soviet-controlled states in Eastern Europe as a buffer against future invasions.

The Novikov telegram was written by Nikolai Novikov, who was the Soviet ambassador to the USA at the time. He accused the USA of trying to achieve world dominance. Another consequence was increased rivalry. The USA, Britain and France believed that Stalin's motives were political – the expansion of the Soviet empire and communism throughout Europe.

- 2 Now have a go at the following question by using the writing frame below.

Explain two consequences of the Potsdam Conference.

What is the first consequence I will explain?

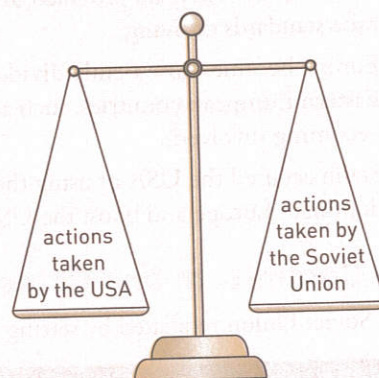
Details to support this consequence:

What is the second consequence I will explain?

Details to support this consequence:

In the balance

- 1 Using the information on pages 4 and 6, copy and complete both sides of the scales to show who was most to blame for the early Cold War.
- 2 Overall, who was most to blame for the early Cold War? Explain your judgement.



3 The development of the Cold War 1

REVISED

The rivalry between the superpowers intensified in the years 1947–49.

3.1 The Truman Doctrine, 1947

In 1947, Truman began a US policy of containment:

- This was because the USA, and especially Truman, believed that the Soviet Union was trying to spread communism, and also because Greece was being threatened with a communist takeover. By early 1947, Britain told the USA that it could no longer afford to support the Greek and Turkish governments.
- Truman announced US support for Greece in an important speech in March 1947 which became known as the **Truman Doctrine**.

The consequences of the Truman Doctrine

- The Greek government was able to defeat the communists.
- The rivalry between the USA and the Soviet Union increased and the doctrine confirmed the division of the world into communist and non-communist.
- The USA became committed to the policy of containment and far more involved in European affairs.
- The USA decided on the Marshall Plan and Stalin set up **Cominform**.

3.2 The Marshall Plan, 1947

Truman backed up his policy of containment with economic aid to Europe. This was known as the Marshall Plan.

Why was the Marshall Plan introduced?

- Truman believed that communism generally won support in countries where there were economic problems, unemployment and poverty. Many European countries had suffered badly as a result of the Second World War and were struggling to deal with the damage caused.
- If the USA could help these countries to recover economically and provide employment and reasonable prosperity, then there would be no need to turn to communism.

Consequences of the Marshall Plan

- By 1953, the USA had provided \$17 billion of aid to rebuild economies and raise standards of living.
- Europe became more firmly divided between East and West. Stalin prevented Eastern European countries, such as Czechoslovakia and Poland, from becoming involved.
- Stalin accused the USA of using the plan for its own selfish interests – to dominate Europe and boost the US economy.

3.3 Cominform and Comecon

The Soviet Union retaliated by setting up rival organisations.

Key terms

Comecon The Council for Mutual Assistance

Cominform
The Communist Information Bureau

Truman Doctrine
US President Truman's idea that it was the USA's duty to prevent the spread of communism to Eastern Europe and the rest of the world. To do this, he was prepared to engage the USA in military enterprises all over the world

Revision task

The Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan were described as two sides of one coin. Sketch your own coin big enough to write on. On one side give a brief definition of the Truman Doctrine. On the other side give a brief definition of the Marshall Plan.

Exam tip

Students often confuse the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. Ensure you have a thorough knowledge of both. Remember that the Truman Doctrine is political aid to Western Europe to stop the spread of communism and the Marshall Plan is economic aid.

Cominform	Comecon
Cominform was the Communist Information Bureau and was set up in 1947 to enable the Soviet Union to co-ordinate Communist parties throughout Europe. It was the Soviet Union's response to the Truman Doctrine. It was introduced to ensure that the states in Eastern Europe followed Soviet aims in foreign policy	Comecon was the Soviet response to the Marshall Plan. The Council for Mutual Assistance (Comecon) was founded in 1949. It was supposed to be a means by which the Soviet Union could financially support countries in Eastern Europe. In reality, it was used by the Soviet Union to control the economies of these states



RAG: Rate the timeline

Below are an exam-style question and a timeline. Read the question, study the timeline and, using three coloured pens, put a **red**, **amber** or **green** star next to the events to show:

Red: events and policies that have **no** relevance to the question

Amber: events and policies that have **some** relevance to the question

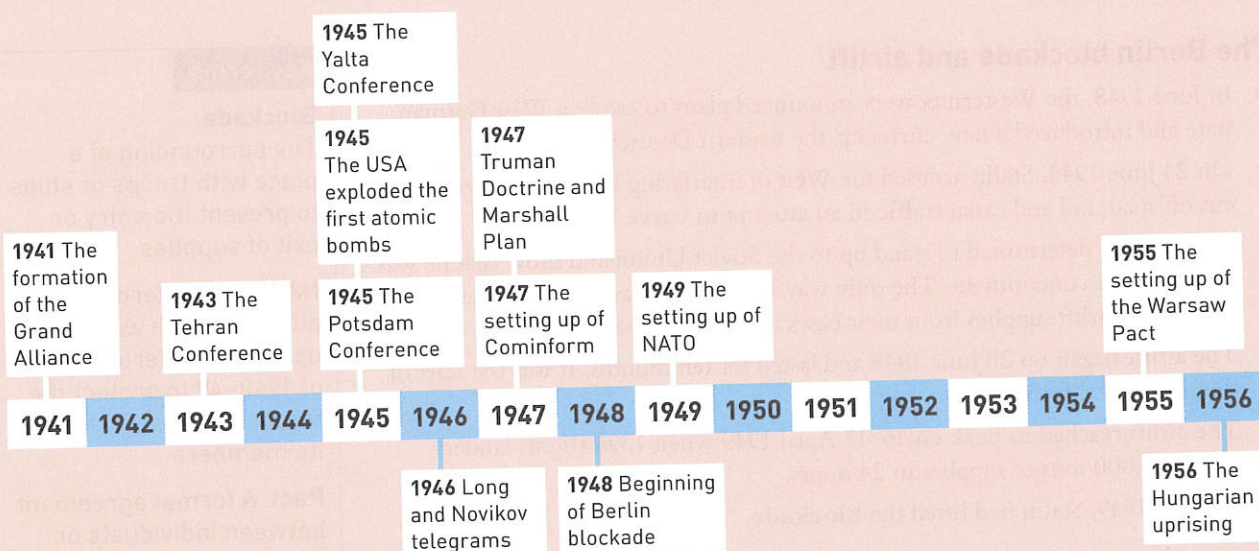
Green: events and policies that have **direct** relevance to the question

Write a narrative account analysing the key ways in which the Cold War developed in the years 1945–47.

You may use the following information in your answer.

■ The Potsdam Conference ■ The Marshall Plan

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



Adding a third factor

To answer the narrative account style question, you need to explain three developments. It is sensible to make use of the two given points. However, you need to explain a third development. In the space below, write down your choice for a third development in answer to the exam-style question in the 'Rate the timeline' activity above. Give reasons why you have chosen it.

Third development: _____

Why I have chosen this: _____

Details to support this point: _____

4 The development of the Cold War 2

REVISED

4.1 The Berlin Crisis, 1948–49

This was the first major crisis of the Cold War.

The division of Germany into zones

- During the peace conferences of 1945 (see pages 4–5), the Allies had agreed to divide both Germany and Berlin into four zones of occupation. Berlin was in Soviet-controlled East Germany. The Western Allies were allowed access to their sectors by road, rail, canal and air.
- Stalin did not want the Allies inside Berlin.
- In 1947, the US and British zones in Berlin merged into one economic unit known as Bizonia.

The Berlin blockade and airlift

- In June 1948, the Western powers announced plans to create a West German state and introduced a new currency, the western Deutschmark.
- On 24 June 1948, Stalin accused the West of interfering in the Soviet zone. He cut off road, rail and canal traffic in an attempt to starve West Berlin.
- Truman was determined to stand up to the Soviet Union and show that he was serious about containment. The only way into Berlin was by air. So the Allies decided to airlift supplies from their bases in West Germany.
- The airlift began on 28 June 1948 and lasted for ten months. It was the start of the biggest airlift in history.
- The airlift reached its peak on 16–17 April 1949 when 1398 flights landed nearly 13,000 tons of supplies in 24 hours.
- By May 1949, Stalin had lifted the **blockade**.

Impact of the blockade and airlift

- It greatly increased East–West rivalry. Truman saw the crisis as a great victory. West Berlin had survived and stood up to the Soviet Union. For Stalin it was a defeat and a humiliation.
- It confirmed the divisions of Germany and Berlin. In May 1949, the Western Allies announced the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Stalin's response was rapid and in October 1949 the Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic (GDR).
- It led to the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or **NATO**.

4.2 The formation of NATO, 1949

The Berlin Crisis had confirmed Truman's commitment to Western Europe. Western European states, even joined together, were no match for the Soviet Union and needed the formal support of the USA (see map on page 12). In April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed. NATO's main purpose was to prevent Soviet expansion.

Consequences of the formation of NATO

- The USA was now committed to the defence of Western Europe.
- Stalin believed that NATO was aimed against the Soviet Union.
- Within six years, the Soviet Union set up the Warsaw **Pact** (see page 12).
- Europe was now divided in a state of permanent hostility between the superpowers.

Key terms

Blockade

The surrounding of a place with troops or ships to prevent the entry or exit of supplies

NATO A Western military alliance which was set up after the Berlin Crisis of 1948–49 to protect the freedom and security of its members

Pact A formal agreement between individuals or states

Revision task

Draw a flow chart to show the causes, events and results of the Berlin Crisis of 1948–49.

Exam tips

- 1 Students often confuse this crisis with the crisis over the Berlin Wall in 1961. An easy way to remember the difference is 'B' for blockade comes before 'W' for wall.
- 2 Questions on NATO are often not well answered as students fail to revise its features and importance. Ensure you revise these thoroughly.



Develop the detail

Below are an exam-style question and a paragraph which is part of the answer to the question. The paragraph gives the importance of the Potsdam Conference but this is not supported with sufficient evidence. Complete the paragraph by adding more detail about the importance of the Potsdam Conference.

Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the Potsdam Conference (1945) for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- The importance of the Truman Doctrine (1947) for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- The importance of the Berlin Crisis (1948–49) for the development of the Cold War.

The Potsdam Conference was important because it led to differences between the Soviet Union and the USA over Germany. It also led to differences between the two superpowers over what should happen to countries in Eastern Europe.



Spot the mistakes

Below is a paragraph written in answer to the question above. However, the student has made a series of mistakes, some factual and some in how the question is answered. Once you have identified the mistakes, rewrite the paragraph.

The Truman Doctrine of 1949 was important because it led to American support for the Italian government, which was now able to defeat communism. The USA became committed to a policy of containment and became far more involved in the affairs of Asia. It was also important because it led to the Long telegram, which provided economic aid to Europe.

Now have a go at the third option in the question: the importance of the Berlin Crisis (1948–49) for the development of the Cold War:

- jot down examples of its importance in relation to the given factor
- introduce the first example of its importance in relation to the given factor
- fully explain the example
- introduce the second example of its importance in relation to the given factor
- fully explain the example.

5 The Cold War intensifies 1

REVISED

The Cold War and East–West rivalry increased even more in the years after the Berlin Crisis.

5.1 The Warsaw Pact, 1955

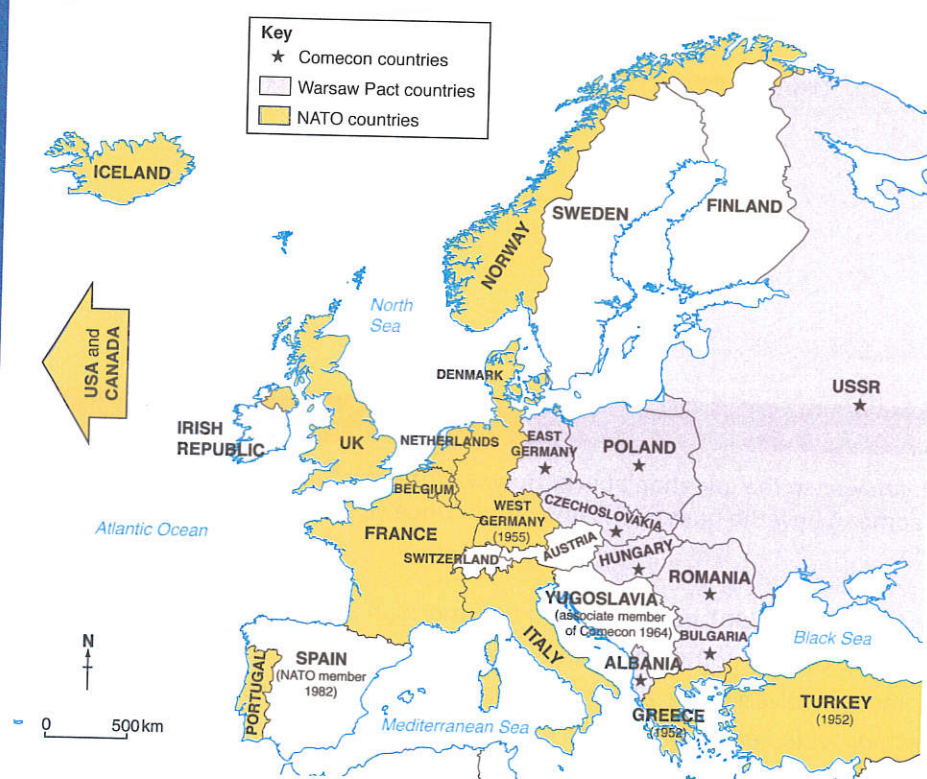
In 1955, the Soviet Union set up the Warsaw Pact. It was a military alliance of eight nations and was designed to counter the threat of NATO.

Consequences

The existence of two rival alliance systems in the Cold War – in the west NATO and in the east the Warsaw Pact – increased rivalry between the USA and the Soviet Union and intensified the **arms race**.

Key term

Arms race A competition between nations for superiority in the development and accumulation of weapons



Alliances, 1945–55.

5.2 The arms race

Both superpowers spent more and more money on arms development:

- By 1949, the Soviet Union had developed and tested its own atomic bomb. This was earlier than the USA had expected.
- Now that the USA and the Soviet Union had the atomic bomb, they both began to pour money into projects to build more and bigger bombs.
- Truman ordered a new powerful weapon to be built: the hydrogen or H-bomb.
- In 1953, the Soviet Union tested an H-bomb only a few months after the first US test.
- By 1953, both the USA and the Soviet Union possessed hydrogen bombs.
- Both countries continued to develop bigger and more powerful nuclear weapons.

Revision task

Try coming up with a mnemonic (a pattern of letters, ideas or associations) to help you remember which countries were part of the Warsaw Pact.

The impact of *Sputnik*

- There was hope that the two superpowers would slow down their arms development.
- However, in 1957 the situation changed completely when a Soviet rocket launched *Sputnik*, a satellite which could orbit the earth in one and a half hours.
- The USA saw this launch as a military threat.
- The USA increased its spending on missiles and placed missile bases in some European countries.
- *Sputnik* therefore accelerated the arms programme due to US fears that the Soviet Union was overtaking them in arms development.

Consequences and importance

Having read the information on pages 8, 10 and 12, make a copy of the table below. Explain the consequences and importance of each event for relations between the two superpowers.

Event	Consequences	Importance
The Truman Doctrine		
The Marshall Plan		
Berlin Crisis		
NATO		
Arms race		
Warsaw Pact		

Matching dates and events

- Place the following events in the correct chronological order on the timeline below.
- Give one consequence of each event.

- A** Truman Doctrine

B Setting up of the Warsaw Pact

C Setting up of NATO

D Potsdam Conference
- E** Soviet Union tested the H-bomb

F Beginning of the blockade of Berlin

G Long telegram

Year	Event	Consequence
1945		
1946		
1947		
1948		
1949		
1950		
1951		
1952		
1953		
1954		
1955		

6 The Cold War intensifies 2

REVISED

6.1 The Hungarian uprising, 1956

This further increased rivalry between the USA and the Soviet Union.

Causes

The Soviet Union had established control of Hungary in the years after the Second World War (see page 6). Soviet influence was very unpopular as there was little freedom:

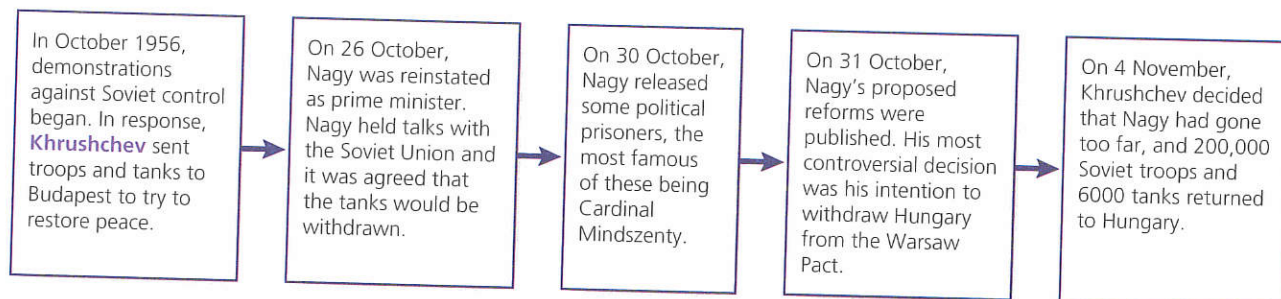
- The Hungarian economy was controlled by the Soviet Union through Comecon. This body prevented Hungary trading with Western Europe and receiving any Marshall Plan aid. Hungary was forced to trade on uneven terms with the Soviet Union. This meant that Hungary did not always receive a fair price for its exports there.
- Mátyás Rákosi from the Hungarian Communist Party led Hungary and used terror and brutality to keep control, killing an estimated 2000 people. The secret police (AVH) became a hated and dreaded part of Hungarian life.
- When Stalin died in 1953, the new leader of the Soviet Union, Malenkov, did not favour Rákosi and replaced him with Imre Nagy. This shows the control that the Soviet Union had in Hungary. However, in April 1955, Nagy was removed and Rákosi returned and resumed his unpopular dictatorship.

Key individual

Nikita Khrushchev

Leader of the Soviet Union from 1955 until 1964. In a 1956 'secret speech', he discussed Stalin's crimes for the first time, starting a process called de-Stalinisation, and later he presided over the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962

Events



The Soviet invasion

- Khrushchev was anxious not to be seen as weak by other members of the Warsaw Pact.
- Khrushchev was afraid that events in Hungary could encourage similar revolts in other Soviet satellite states.
- Furthermore, Mao Zedong, the Chinese leader, was urging him to stand firm against any deviation from communism.
- Khrushchev was able to keep control, and a new Soviet-backed leader, Kádár, was installed. Nagy was arrested and shot in 1958.

6.2 International reaction

- There was very little that the West, especially the USA and Britain, could do to help the Hungarians.
- The West condemned the actions of the Soviet Union, but Hungary was too far away for military intervention.
- The Western powers were keen to avoid military confrontation with the Soviet Union.
- Britain, France and the USA were preoccupied with the Suez Crisis.

Revision task

Draw a timeline for the years 1945–56. On the timeline include the key events of the Cold War.

Exam tip

The events of 1956 in Hungary are complicated. Ensure you have a thorough understanding of the chronology of that year.



Memory map

Use the information on the opposite page to create a memory map about the key features of the Hungarian uprising of 1956. Your diagram should include the reasons for the Soviet invasion, the events of the invasion, its importance and consequences.



You're the examiner

Below is an exam-style question.

Write a narrative account analysing the key events which increased rivalry between the two superpowers in the years 1949–56.

You may use the following information in your answer:

■ NATO (1949)

■ The Hungarian Crisis (1956)

You must also use information of your own.

- 1 Below are a mark scheme and a paragraph which is part of an answer to the question. Read the paragraph and the mark scheme. Decide which level you would award the paragraph. Write the level below, along with a justification for your choice.

Mark scheme

Level	Mark	
1	1–2	A simple or generalised narrative is provided, showing limited development, organisation of material and limited knowledge and understanding of the events included
2	3–5	A narrative is given showing some organisation of material into a sequence of events leading to an outcome. The account shows some analysis of the linkage between them but some of the passages may lack coherence and organisation Accurate and relevant knowledge is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the events. <i>Maximum 4 marks for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points</i>
3	6–8	A narrative is given which organises material into a clear sequence of events leading to an outcome. The account of the events analyses the linkage between them and is coherent and logically structured Accurate and relevant knowledge is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the key features or characteristics of the events <i>No access to Level 3 for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points</i>

STUDENT ANSWER

In April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed. Although a defensive alliance, NATO's main purpose was to prevent Soviet expansion. The USA was now committed to the defence of Western Europe. Stalin did not believe it was a defensive alliance. He believed it was aimed against the Soviet Union. In 1956, the Soviet Union invaded Hungary. Khrushchev did not want to be seen as weak by other members of the Warsaw Pact. He was afraid that events in Hungary could encourage similar revolts in other Soviet satellite states. There was very little that the West, especially the USA and Britain, could do, apart from condemn the actions of the Soviet Union, to help the Hungarians.

Level

Reason

- 2 Now suggest what the student has to do with this paragraph to achieve the next level.

- 3 Try and rewrite this paragraph at a higher level.

Key topic 2 Cold War crises, 1958–70

In the 1960s there were three major crises in the Cold War. Each one greatly increased tension between the superpowers. The first was in 1961 when the Soviet Union constructed the Berlin Wall separating East Berlin from West Berlin. The following year the two superpowers were on the brink of nuclear war due to the Cuban Missile Crisis. The third crisis was in 1968 and was due to developments in Czechoslovakia.

1 Increased tension over Berlin, 1958–61

REVISED

The Soviet Union's desire to remove the Western Allies from Berlin created a crisis in 1961.

1.1 Problems in East Germany

Even after 1949, Berlin continued to pose a problem for the USA and Soviet Union:

- Between 1949 and 1961, about 4 million East Germans fled to the West through Berlin. Khrushchev wanted the removal of the Allies because West Berlin was an area of capitalist prosperity and symbolised the success of Western Europe within communist territory.
- The Soviet Union also claimed that the USA and its Allies used West Berlin as a base for espionage.

The Berlin Ultimatum

In 1958, Khrushchev issued the Berlin **Ultimatum**. He accused the Allies of breaking the Potsdam Agreement, and told them that they should leave Berlin within six months. The US president, Eisenhower, seemed prepared to negotiate. He did not want to risk a war over Berlin.

Summit meetings, 1959–61

- In May 1959, the Geneva Summit of Foreign Ministers failed to reach agreement on the problem of Berlin.
- In September 1959, Khrushchev visited the USA to attend a summit meeting at Camp David. Disarmament was discussed and they agreed on a further summit meeting over Berlin.
- Khrushchev and Eisenhower were set to meet in Paris on 14 May 1960. Nine days before the **summit conference** was due to open, the Soviet Union announced that it had shot down an American U-2 spy plane near the city of Sverdlovsk. The pilot was captured and put on trial.
- Khrushchev demanded that all such flights stop and that the USA apologise for spying. Eisenhower would not and Khrushchev stormed out of the first session.
- At the Vienna summit of June 1961, Khrushchev again demanded that Western forces leave West Berlin. The new US president, **Kennedy**, refused.

1.2 The Berlin Wall, 1961

The differences over Berlin worsened in 1961 with the building of the Berlin Wall:

- On 13 August 1961, Khrushchev closed the border between East and West Berlin. East German troops and workers installed barbed-wire entanglements and fences.
- The USA and its Allies did nothing to stop the building of a wall.
- Over time, East German officials replaced the makeshift wall with one that was sturdier and more difficult to scale.

Key terms

Summit conference

A meeting of heads of state or government, usually with considerable media exposure and tight security

Ultimatum A final demand or statement of terms, the rejection of which will result in retaliation or a breakdown in relations

Key individual

John F. Kennedy Won the US presidential election of 1960 and was the US leader during the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. He was determined to get tough with communism but his presidency was short-lived as he was assassinated in 1963

Revision task

Prioritise the consequences of the events of the early 1960s in Berlin.

Exam tip

Ensure you do not confuse the events of 1961 with the Berlin Crisis of 1948–49.