

# A10: Superpower Relations 1945-1962: Exam Questions

The following exam questions are taken from the 2011 and 2012 exams as well as some re-written questions from previous years' exams. Refer to the marking criteria and grade boundaries at the bottom of this document to mark your work. Good luck!

## Exam Questions - Question A (3 marks) - Write these events in the correct chronological sequence:

1. The beginning of peaceful co-existence, The Cuban Missile Crisis, The Setting up of the Federal Republic of Germany, The Marshall Plan, The 'Iron Curtain' speech
2. The beginning of the Korean War, The Truman Doctrine, The Setting up of the Warsaw Pact, The Berlin Blockade, The Potsdam Conference
3. The Hungarian Uprising, The setting-up the Warsaw Pact, The building of the Berlin Wall, The Marshall Plan, The setting-up of NATO
4. The Yalta Conference, The Bay of Pigs Invasion, The Berlin Blockade, The Setting up of the Warsaw Pact, The beginning of Peaceful Co-Existence.
5. Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech, The building of the Berlin Wall, The Creation of the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR), The Cuban Missile Crisis, The Hungarian Crisis
6. The creation of COMECON, The start of the Korean War, U2 Incident, The building of the Berlin Wall, The Potsdam Conference
7. The Hungarian Uprising, The Potsdam Conference, The Berlin Blockade, The Yalta Conference, The Truman Doctrine
8. The Marshall Plan, The Hungarian Crisis, The Death of Stalin, The U2 Incident, Novikov's Telegram.
9. Creation of the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR), Creation of COMINFORM, The Setting up of the Warsaw Pact, Kennan's Long Telegram, Bay of Pigs Invasion.
10. Cuban Missile Crisis, creation of COMECON, The setting-up of NATO, Novikov's Telegram, The Building of the Berlin Wall.

11. The Berlin Blockade, Death of Stalin, The Hungarian Crisis, the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR) joining NATO, The Cuban Missile Crisis.
12. The Berlin Blockade, The Potsdam Conference, The Hungarian Uprising, The Truman Doctrine, The Yalta Conference.
13. The U2 Incident, The Hungarian Uprising, The Potsdam Conference, The Marshall Plan, The Korean War

### **Exam Questions - Question B (4 marks / Consequence)**

1. Choose either **The Cuban Missile Crisis** or **The Marshall Plan**. Describe **one effect** on the relations between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
2. Choose either **The Truman Doctrine** or **The Berlin Blockade**. Describe **one effect** on the relations between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
3. Choose either the **Building of the Berlin Wall** or **The setting-up of NATO**. Describe **one effect** on the relations between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
4. Choose either the **Warsaw Pact** or **Khrushchev's policy of Peaceful Co-existence**. Describe **one effect** that it had on relations between East and West. (2007 Foundation)
5. Choose either the **creation of the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR)** or **Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' Speech**. Describe **one effect** on the relation between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
6. Choose either the **Korean War** or the **U2 incident**. Describe **one effect** on the relation between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
7. Choose either the **Yalta Conference** or the **Potsdam Conference**. Describe **one effect** on the relation between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
8. Choose either the **Hungarian Crisis** or the **Bay of Pigs Invasion**. Describe **one effect** on the relation between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
9. Choose either the **creation of COMINFORM** or **Kennan's Long Telegram**. Describe **one effect** on the relation between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.

10. Choose either the **creation of COMECON** or **Novikov's Telegram**. Describe **one effect** on the relation between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
11. Choose either the **Death of Stalin** or the **Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) joining NATO**. Describe **one effect** on the relation between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
12. Choose either the **U2 incident** or **The Potsdam Conference**. Describe **one effect** on relations between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.
13. Choose either the **U2 incident** or **The Arms Race**. Describe **one effect** on relations between the USA and the Soviet Union of the event you have chosen.

### Exam Questions - Question C (8 marks / Causation)

1. Why was there a crisis over Berlin in the years 1948-1949? Explain your answer.
2. Why did the USSR build the Berlin Wall in 1961? Explain your answer.
3. Why had the USA and the Soviet Union become rivals by 1947? Explain your answer.
4. Why did Warsaw Pact troops invade Hungary in November 1956? Explain your answer.
5. Why was the Truman Doctrine announced in March 1947? Explain your answer.
6. Why had the wartime alliance between the USA and the Soviet Union broken down by the end of 1946? Explain your answer.
7. Why was the Marshall Plan created in June 1947? Explain your answer.
8. Why was there a crisis over missiles in Cuba in 1962? Explain your answer.
9. Why was there a war over Korea in the years 1950-1953? Explain your answer.
10. Why was the NATO alliance created in April 1949? Explain your answer.
11. Why did the USSR establish the Warsaw Pact in May 1955? Explain your answer.
12. Why did the USSR establish COMINFORM in September 1947? Explain your answer.

13. Why did Stalin launch COMECON in 1949? Explain your answer.
14. Why had Germany become divided by 1949? Explain your answer.
15. Why did the USA and USSR disagree at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945? Explain your answer.
16. Why did the Wartime Allies decide to meet at Yalta in February 1945? Explain your answer.
17. Why did the USA decide to launch the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961? Explain your answer.
18. Why did Churchill give his 'Iron Curtain' speech in March 1946? Explain your answer.
19. Why had Khrushchev's Policy of Peaceful Co-Existence ended by 1961? Explain your answer.
20. Why did Khrushchev walk out of the Paris Summit in May 1960? Explain your answer.
21. Why did Truman take a much tougher line with Stalin at Potsdam than Roosevelt had at Yalta? Explain your answer.
22. Why did Khrushchev adopt the policy of 'peaceful co-existence'? Explain your answer.
23. Why had differences between the Allies appeared by the Potsdam Conference in July 1945? Explain your answer.
24. Why did relations between the USA and the USSR change in the period between the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences? Explain your answer.

### **Exam Questions - Question D (10 marks / Cause, Effect or Change)**

1. Use the source and your own knowledge, to explain why relations between the USA and the Soviet Union changed in the years 1955-1961.

*"In 1955, the Soviet Union set up the Warsaw Pact to strengthen its control of Eastern Europe. In the following year, Soviet forces crushed the Hungarian Uprising. The U2 Crisis and the construction of the Berlin Wall worsened relations between the USA and the Soviet Union." Source: from a modern textbook.*

**2. Use the source and your own knowledge, to explain why the Soviet Union invaded Hungary in 1956.**

*"In June 1956, a group within the Hungarian Communist Party opposed Rakosi. The Soviet Union allowed a new government to be formed under Imre Nagy. Nagy introduced a series of reforms including free elections and private ownership of farmland." Source: from a modern textbook.*

**3. Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain why there was a crisis over missiles in Cuba in 1962.**

*"On 14 October 1962 a US spy plane took photographs which showed Soviet missile bases being built in Cuba. This meant that all US missile defence systems were now useless. From 16 October Kennedy spent one week asking his defence chiefs for possible reactions and considering alternatives." Source: from a modern textbook.*

**4. Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain how the Cold War developed in the years 1949-1953.**

*"Tension between the West and the Soviet Union continued to increase throughout the Berlin Airlift. The hopes that Germany would be re-united began to disappear and in 1949 the Federal Republic of Germany was created from the British, French and US zones. Later that year, the Soviet Union created the German Democratic Republic from its zone." Source: from a modern textbook.*

**5. Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain how the Cuban Missile Crisis was ended peacefully.**

*"At first in the Cuban Missile Crisis neither Kennedy nor Khrushchev would back down. Kennedy set up the naval blockade and Khrushchev ordered Soviet ships to continue supplying Cuba. On 24<sup>th</sup> October, some Soviet ships turned away from Cuba and some slowed down. The two leaders exchanged letters and Kennedy agreed to Khrushchev's suggestions." Source: from a modern textbook*

**6. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why the Berlin Wall was built in 1961.**

*"Kruschev thought he would be able to force the Allies out of West Berlin. He knew the limits to which President Eisenhower would go. Khrushchev knew that he had to stop the flow of refugees. West Berlin remained a loophole in the Iron Curtain. The 1948 crisis had made it clear that the Western powers were not going to leave West Berlin of their own free will.*

Following the election of the inexperienced John F. Kennedy, Khrushchev felt very confident that he could solve the problem of Berlin once and for all." **Source: from a modern textbook**

**7. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain how the creation of NATO changed relations between East and West.**

*"The Berlin Blockade had serious consequences for international relations. The West decided that Stalin was not going to co-operate and so Truman took the decision that the USA would have to keep forces in Europe on a permanent basis. In 1949, NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was set up. It was a sign that relations between the Superpowers were now so bad that some form of military alliance was necessary."* **Source: from a modern textbook**

**8. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain how Stalin tried to force the Allies out of West Berlin in the years 1948-1949.**

*"Stalin had wanted to deal with West Berlin for some time. He did not like the fact that it gave the West access to Europe beyond the Iron Curtain. It also gave the people of the East an idea of what life was like in the West. As Marshall Aid began to reach Europe, life in the West seemed more and more attractive. Stalin decided to try to force the Western Allies out."* **Source: from a modern textbook**

**9. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why Stalin was forced to end the blockade of West Berlin in May 1949.**

*"In June 1948, the western allies decided that they had to respond to Stalin's actions. They agreed that West Berlin had to be saved at all costs. So began the Berlin Airlift, which lasted more than fourteen months, until September 1949, four months after the blockade ended. Everything that the people of West Berlin needed had to be brought in by plane."* **Source: from a modern textbook.**

**10. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain the changes to relations between the USA and the Soviet Union brought about by the Berlin Blockade of 1948-49?**

*"The Berlin Blockade was a propaganda success for the Americans and a failure for the Soviet Union. In May 1949, Stalin called off the blockade. In September 1949, West Germany was officially created as an independent state, followed one month later by East Germany. In addition, the USA set up the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation."* **Source: from a modern textbook.**

11. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain why there was a war in Korea from 1950-53.

"America's first response to the invasion of South Korea was to rush military supplies to South Korea. Then, on 27<sup>th</sup> June the United States proposed a resolution in the United Nations calling for military action against North Korea. The resolution was passed and three days later Truman ordered American troops into Korea." *Source: from a modern textbook.*

12. Use the source and your own knowledge to explain the effects of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

"After the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy worked with Khrushchev to set up a hot line. This would allow the Kremlin and the White House to be in direct contact. The aim of the hotline was to ensure that the two leaders could discuss their differences and therefore avoid war." *Source: from a modern textbook.*

## A10: Superpower Relations 1945-1962: Mark Scheme

A rough estimation of the grade boundaries would mean that students would need to achieve the following mark for each of the four units: A\* = 21/25, A = 18/25, B = 15/25, C = 12/25, D = 9/25, E = 7/25, F = 5/25, G = 3/25, U = 0+

(a) Target: Recall of Knowledge (AO1) - 3 marks

2 in correct sequence	1 mark
3 in correct sequence	2 marks
4/5 in correct sequence	3 marks

(b) Target: Consequence/Recall of knowledge (AO1) - 4 marks

Level	Descriptor	Mark
Level 1	<b><u>Simple or generalised statements of consequence</u></b> - The candidate makes statements which lack any supporting contextual knowledge or makes unsupported generalisations. <i>e.g. This was when the USA and other countries signed an alliance.</i>	1-2
Level 2	<b><u>Developed statements of consequence</u></b> - The candidate supports their statements with relevant contextual knowledge. <i>e.g. Berlin wall worsened relations. USA annoyed, lack of movement between East and West. Attempts to escape over wall.</i>	3-4

(c) Target: Causation/Recall of Knowledge (A01) - 8 marks

Level	Descriptor	Mark
Level 1	<p><b>Simple or generalised statements of causation -</b> The candidate makes statements which lack any supporting contextual knowledge or makes unsupported generalisations. <i>e.g. because of capitalism and communism.</i></p>	<p>1-2 1 mark for one simple statement 2 marks for two or more</p>
Level 2	<p><b>Developed statements of causation -</b> The candidate supports their statement with relevant contextual knowledge. <i>e.g. Differences at Yalta and Potsdam, ideological differences, attitude of Truman</i></p>	<p>3-5 3 marks for one developed statement 4/5 marks for two or more</p>
Level 3	<p><b>Developed explanation of causation -</b> An explanation of more than one factor supported by selected knowledge. One explained factor should be marked at the top of Level 2. <i>e.g. As Level 2. Shows how US use of atom bomb, Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan worsened relations.</i></p>	<p>6-8 6/7 marks for two or more explained factors 8 marks for answers which show links between factors</p>

(d) Target: Recall of Knowledge/Comprehension of Source (A01/A02) - 10 marks

Level	Descriptor	Mark
Level 1	<p><b>Simple or generalised statements using the source supported by some own knowledge -</b> The candidate makes statements which lack any supporting contextual knowledge or makes unsupported generalisations. <i>e.g. because the Soviet Union had missiles on Cuba.</i></p>	<p>1-3 1 marks for one simple statement 2/3 marks for two or more Max 3 marks for only using the source</p>
Level 2	<p><b>Developed Statements using the source and relevant own knowledge -</b> The candidate supports their statement with relevant contextual knowledge. <i>e.g. Krushchev and missiles, US spy plane and missile sites, attitude of Kennedy</i></p>	<p>4-7 4/5 marks for one developed statement 6/7 marks for two or more</p>

<p>Level 3</p>	<p><b>Developed explanation using the source and precise own knowledge</b> - An explanation of more than one factor supported by selected knowledge. One explained factor should be marked at the top of Level 2.</p> <p><i>e.g. As Level 2 - Shows how Kennedy's and Khrushchev's policies v Cuba precipitated crisis</i></p>	<p>8-10</p> <p>8-9 marks for two or more explained factors</p> <p>10 marks for answers which show links between factors</p>
----------------	--	---