4.12 The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the End of the Cold War, 1989-91: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Name the treaty, signed in 1990, that settled the external aspects of German reunification and involved the four wartime powers plus the two German states.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Give the date on which Germany was officially reunified.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 State two effects of the August 1991 coup's failure on the Soviet Union.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Give the month and year when the Soviet Union formally dissolved.

(Total for Question 4 is 1 mark)

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5 Explain two consequences of the fall of the Berlin Wall for East Germany and for Europe.

(Total for Question 5 is 8 marks)

6 Write a narrative account analysing how events across Eastern Europe in 1989 led from protest to the end of communist rule in several countries.

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the role of mass protest movements such as those in Leipzig and Prague
- the political changes in Poland and Hungary in 1989

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 6 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.12 The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the End of the Cold War, 1989-91: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

The Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany (the Two Plus Four Treaty) **B1**

Answer: The Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, known as the Two Plus Four Treaty.

Question 2

3 October 1990 **B1**

Answer: 3 October 1990

Question 3

it weakened the authority of the Communist Party **B1**

it strengthened the position of leaders pushing for independence, such as Boris Yeltsin **B1**

Answer: It weakened the authority of the Communist Party and strengthened independence movements and leaders like Boris Yeltsin.

Question 4

December 1991 **B1**

Answer: December 1991

Question 5

Level 1 Identifies one or two simple consequences of the Wall falling, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail; may outline a second consequence. **3-4**

Level 3 Explains two consequences, each supported by accurate and relevant detail that shows cause and effect. **5-6**

Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed, analytical way, showing clearly how each consequence followed from the fall of the Wall and its wider impact on East Germany and Europe. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- For East Germany: the opening of the Wall removed the physical and symbolic barrier to migration and political change, accelerating the collapse of the SED regime and leading to rapid moves towards free elections and eventual reunification with West Germany.
- For East Germany: economic consequence, including the sudden exposure of East German industry to West German competition, large-scale restructuring, unemployment and the need for massive financial transfers from West Germany to modernise the east.
- For Europe: the Wall's fall signalled the collapse of the Iron Curtain and encouraged democratic revolutions across Eastern Europe, weakening Soviet control and changing the balance of power in Europe away from bipolar confrontation.
- For Europe: it enabled the prospect of EU and NATO enlargement eastward, as former communist states sought integration with Western political and economic institutions, reshaping European security and cooperation arrangements.

Question 6

Level 1 Simple, general statements about events with little organisation or sense of change over time. **1-2**

Level 2 Some accurate knowledge deployed in a limited sequence; may list events with limited analysis of connections. **3-4**

Level 3 An organised account that shows how events developed, with some analysis of the links between protests, political negotiation and collapse. **5-6**

Level 4 A coherent, well-structured narrative that analyses connections between events across the period, showing clearly how protests, negotiations and broader changes combined to end communist rule, supported by precise and accurate detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- Begin with Poland: Solidarity's re-emergence and the June 1989 elections produced a non-communist-led government, demonstrating that negotiated transition could succeed and inspiring movements elsewhere.
- Hungary's reforms and the opening of its border with Austria in mid-1989 removed a key barrier and provided a route west for East Germans, undermining the GDR and signalling weakening control of the bloc's borders.
- Mass protests in East German cities such as Leipzig grew through autumn 1989, demanding reform and free travel, culminating in the border announcement on 9 November and the Wall's opening.
- In Czechoslovakia, the Velvet Revolution saw mass demonstrations in November and December 1989 that forced the communist leadership to resign, while Romania experienced a violent overthrow of Ceaucescu, showing the variations in how communist rule ended across the region.
- Analyse how these developments were interconnected: successful elections and reforms lowered the perceived cost of change, border openings allowed population movement that delegitimised hardline regimes, and peaceful mass mobilisation demonstrated the depth of opposition, while in some cases the collapse was swift and violent where regimes resisted.

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