4.3 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: The Berlin Crisis and the Building of the Berlin Wall, 1958-61: 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 State one way in which President Kennedy responded to the building of the Berlin Wall, without risking direct military confrontation with the USSR.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Write a narrative account analysing how the crisis over Berlin developed between Khrushchev's ultimatum of November 1958 and the building of the Berlin Wall in August 1961.

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the collapse of the Paris Summit in May 1960
- the Vienna Summit of June 1961

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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3 Explain two of the following:

(a) the importance of the Berlin Ultimatum (1958) for increasing Cold War tension

(b) the importance of the U-2 incident (1960) for relations between the superpowers

(c) the importance of the building of the Berlin Wall (1961) for the situation in Germany

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.3 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: The Berlin Crisis and the Building of the Berlin Wall, 1958-61: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a response, e.g. sending additional US troops to reinforce West Berlin **B1**

supporting detail, e.g. this was intended as a symbolic reassurance of the US commitment to defend West Berlin, without taking action against the Wall itself, which stood inside East German territory **B1**

Answer: Kennedy sent additional US troops to reinforce West Berlin as a symbolic reassurance, without directly challenging the Wall.

Question 2

Level 1 Simple, generalised statements about the Berlin crisis, with little organisation or sense of change over time. **1-2**

Level 2 Some accurate knowledge is deployed, with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may be more a list of events than a developed narrative. **3-4**

Level 3 The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows some analysis of how the crisis developed, with accurate supporting detail. **5-6**

Level 4 The answer demonstrates a coherent, well-organised narrative that analyses connections between events across the crisis, showing clearly how repeated failures to resolve the dispute led to the Wall, fully supported by precise and accurate detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- In November 1958 Khrushchev issued an ultimatum demanding Western withdrawal from Berlin within six months, driven partly by the continuing loss of East German citizens through the open border in the city, but the deadline passed without the West giving way.
- In May 1960, an attempt to make progress at the Paris Summit collapsed after the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 spy plane and Eisenhower refused to apologise, leaving the underlying Berlin dispute unresolved and superpower relations more strained.
- At the Vienna Summit in June 1961, the newly-elected Kennedy met Khrushchev, but again no agreement on Berlin's status was reached, and Khrushchev came away believing Kennedy could be pressured further, while East German refugee numbers continued to rise through the summer.
- With diplomacy repeatedly failing to resolve the crisis and the refugee flow becoming increasingly urgent for East Germany, the Soviet Union and East Germany chose a unilateral solution, sealing the border overnight on 12-13 August 1961 with what became the Berlin Wall.
- The Wall's construction effectively ended this phase of the crisis by removing the immediate cause of Soviet pressure (the refugee flow) without either side going to war, showing how three years of failed negotiation led finally to a physical, rather than diplomatic, resolution.

Question 3

Level 1 For each part answered: identifies a general point of importance, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-4**

Level 2 For each part answered: begins to explain importance, supported by some accurate detail. **5-8**

Level 3 For each part answered: explains importance clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, with some analysis of consequences. **9-12**

Level 4 For each part answered: explains importance in a well-developed, analytical way, fully supported by precise and accurate detail, showing clearly why the event mattered for the outcome named. **13-16**

Indicative content:

- (a) The Berlin Ultimatum was important for increasing Cold War tension because it directly threatened the post-war status quo in Germany, forcing the Western powers to decide whether to defend West Berlin's position, and its six-month deadline created a sustained period of uncertainty and risk that lasted well beyond 1959.
- (b) The U-2 incident was important for relations between the superpowers because it destroyed the Paris Summit, an opportunity that might otherwise have made progress on Berlin, and it embarrassed the USA publicly (Eisenhower had initially denied the spy flights before Khrushchev revealed the captured pilot), damaging trust between the two sides at a critical moment.
- (c) The building of the Berlin Wall was important for the situation in Germany because it physically and permanently divided the city, ending the possibility of free movement between East and West Berlin that had existed since 1945, and became the enduring symbol of a divided Germany until 1989.
- A strong answer on any two parts explains a clear causal chain from the named event to the outcome specified, using precise dates, and may note that all three events form a connected sequence in which repeated failed negotiation eventually produced the Wall as a unilateral solution.

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