4.4 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 1, 2 and 3. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Explain two consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962).

(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)

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2 Write a narrative account analysing how the Cuban Missile Crisis developed between the discovery of Soviet missile sites on 14 October 1962 and their removal by 28 October 1962.

You may use the following information in your answer:
- President Kennedy's announcement of a naval quarantine on 22 October 1962
- the shooting down of a US U-2 aircraft on 27 October 1962

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 Bay of Pigs invasion (1961) for Cuban-Soviet relations

(b) the importance of the naval quarantine for the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis

(c) the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) for later attempts to reduce Cold War tension

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.4 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

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

Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail. **3-4**

Level 3 Explains two consequences of the crisis, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **5-6**

Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the consequences connect. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- A direct telephone and telegraph link, known as the 'hotline', was set up between Washington and Moscow in 1963, so that leaders could communicate quickly and directly in any future crisis, reducing the risk of dangerous misunderstandings caused by delay.
- The Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed in August 1963, banning nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, underwater and in space, showing that both superpowers wanted to take practical steps to reduce the danger of nuclear war after coming so close to conflict.
- Khrushchev's authority within the Soviet leadership was weakened by the crisis, since removing the missiles could be presented domestically as a retreat, which contributed to the political pressures that led to his removal from power in October 1964.
- Cuba remained a Soviet ally under Castro's government, having secured a public American pledge not to invade, so the crisis also confirmed Cuba's position as a communist state within ninety miles of the United States for the rest of the Cold War.

Question 2

Level 1 Simple, generalised statements about the 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 the danger escalated and was then resolved, fully supported by precise and accurate detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- On 14 October 1962, US U-2 reconnaissance photographs revealed Soviet medium-range missile sites under construction in Cuba, and Kennedy was informed of the discovery within days, beginning intense discussion among his advisers about how to respond.
- On 22 October, rather than launching an immediate airstrike or invasion, Kennedy announced a naval quarantine of Cuba in a televised address, demanding the missiles' removal, a decision intended to apply pressure while leaving room for a diplomatic solution.
- Through the following days Soviet ships approached the quarantine line, with several turning back rather than risk confrontation, while both sides also exchanged private diplomatic messages searching for a way to de-escalate.
- On 27 October, tension reached its most dangerous point when a US U-2 aircraft was shot down over Cuba and its pilot killed, an event that could easily have triggered a military response, showing how close the crisis came to war.
- Despite this, back-channel negotiations continued, and on 28 October Khrushchev publicly agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for a US pledge not to invade Cuba, with a secret agreement over Turkey's Jupiter missiles also part of the resolution, ending the confrontation without direct conflict between the superpowers.

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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 Bay of Pigs invasion was important for Cuban-Soviet relations because its failure convinced Castro that the USA would try again, pushing him to seek a much closer military alliance with the USSR, without which Khrushchev's later decision to place missiles in Cuba would have had no willing host.
- (b) The naval quarantine was important for the resolution of the crisis because it applied firm pressure on the USSR without immediately triggering war, giving both leaders time and political room to negotiate a solution, in contrast to the more aggressive options (airstrike or invasion) that Kennedy's advisers had also considered.
- (c) The Cuban Missile Crisis was important for later attempts to reduce tension because both superpowers were shaken by how close they had come to nuclear war, leading directly to practical safety measures such as the Moscow-Washington hotline (1963) and the Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963), an early step towards the fuller detente of the 1970s.
- 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 how the events form a connected sequence from Cuban-Soviet alignment, through crisis management, to the search for greater safety afterwards.

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