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

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 15 minutes on this pack.

1 Give the year in which Fidel Castro took power in Cuba.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain two reasons why the Soviet Union placed nuclear missiles in Cuba in 1962.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Describe two features of President Kennedy's response to the discovery of Soviet missile sites in Cuba.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 State one reason why the United States was hostile towards Castro's government in Cuba.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Name the location of the failed 1961 invasion of Cuba, and state who carried it out.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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

Question 1

1959 **B1**

Answer: 1959

Question 2

strategic reasoning: the USA had a considerable lead in the number of long-range nuclear missiles, and already had missiles based in Turkey and Italy close to Soviet territory, so Khrushchev saw Cuban-based missiles as a way of narrowing that imbalance **B2**

defensive reasoning: after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, Khrushchev believed the USA might attempt another, larger invasion of Cuba, and saw missiles as a way of deterring such an attack and protecting a new ally **B2**

Answer: To narrow the strategic missile imbalance with the USA, and to deter a further American invasion of Cuba after the Bay of Pigs.

Question 3

Kennedy formed a special group of advisers (ExComm) to consider the options available, ranging from a full airstrike or invasion to a naval blockade or diplomatic pressure **B2**

he chose the less aggressive option of a naval quarantine, announced in a televised address on 22 October 1962, rather than an immediate military strike, giving Khrushchev room to back down without a direct military clash **B2**

Answer: Kennedy convened an advisory committee to weigh the options, then chose the less confrontational naval quarantine rather than an immediate military strike.

Question 4

identifies a reason, e.g. Castro's government seized American-owned businesses and land in Cuba **B1**

supporting detail, e.g. the USA feared a communist state so close to its own shores, only about 90 miles from Florida, would threaten American security and influence in the region **B1**

Answer: Castro's government seized American-owned property, and the USA feared a communist state so close to its shores.

Question 5

the Bay of Pigs **B1**

Cuban exiles trained and supported by the American CIA **B1**

Answer: The Bay of Pigs, invaded by CIA-trained Cuban exiles.

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