



EDX.CW4 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · Calculators not allowed · about 65 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 15, 16 and 17. You are advised to spend about 65 minutes on this pack.

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

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Give the year in which the United States backed a failed invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

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

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 State one consequence of the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion for Cuba's relationship with the Soviet Union.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

- 6** Give the month and year in which American reconnaissance photographs revealed Soviet missile sites under construction in Cuba.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

- 7** State one reason why the Soviet Union placed nuclear missiles in Cuba.

(Total for Question 7 is 2 marks)

- 8** Give the date in October 1962 on which President Kennedy publicly announced a naval quarantine of Cuba.

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

- 9** State what a naval 'quarantine' meant in practice during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

- 10** State what happened on 27 October 1962, sometimes called the most dangerous single day of the crisis.

(Total for Question 10 is 2 marks)

- 11** Give the date on which Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union would remove its missiles from Cuba.

(Total for Question 11 is 1 mark)

12 State the two main terms on which the crisis was resolved.

(Total for Question 12 is 2 marks)

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

(Total for Question 13 is 4 marks)

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

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

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

(Total for Question 15 is 8 marks)

16 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 16 is 8 marks)

17 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 17 is 16 marks)

Mark scheme · EDX.CW4 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

Question 1

- **B1** 1959
- **Answer:** 1959

Question 2

- **B1** 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
- **Answer:** Castro's government seized American-owned property, and the USA feared a communist state so close to its shores.

Question 3

- **B1** 1961
- **Answer:** 1961

Question 4

- **B1** the Bay of Pigs
- **B1** Cuban exiles trained and supported by the American CIA
- **Answer:** The Bay of Pigs, invaded by CIA-trained Cuban exiles.

Question 5

- **B1** the failed invasion increased Castro's fear of a future, larger American attack
- **B1** this pushed Cuba into a closer military and economic alliance with the Soviet Union, which was willing to support and defend Castro's government
- **Answer:** It increased Castro's fear of future American invasion, pushing Cuba into a closer alliance with the USSR.

Question 6

- **B1** October
- **B1** 1962
- **Answer:** October 1962

Question 7

- **B1** identifies a reason, e.g. to help close the gap in nuclear missile numbers between the USSR and the USA, since the USA had more missiles and already had missiles based in Turkey and Italy, close to Soviet territory
- **B1** or, e.g. to defend Cuba, a new ally, from what Khrushchev believed was a real risk of another American invasion after the Bay of Pigs
- **Answer:** To help close the missile gap with the USA and to defend Cuba from the risk of a further American invasion.

Question 8

- **B1** 22 October 1962
- **Answer:** 22 October 1962

Question 9

- **B1** US Navy ships surrounded Cuba and stopped and searched ships heading towards it
- **B1** the aim was to prevent any further Soviet military equipment reaching Cuba, while avoiding the term 'blockade', which would have been considered an act of war under international law
- **Answer:** US ships surrounded Cuba to stop and search vessels, preventing further Soviet military supplies, while avoiding the legal act of war implied by the word 'blockade'.

Question 10

- **B1** a US U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Cuba by a Soviet surface-to-air missile
- **B1** the American pilot was killed, sharply raising fears that the crisis might escalate into direct military conflict
- **Answer: A US U-2 spy plane was shot down over Cuba, killing its pilot, sharply raising fears of escalation.**

Question 11

- **B1** 28 October 1962
- **Answer: 28 October 1962**

Question 12

- **B1** the USSR agreed to remove its missiles from Cuba in exchange for a public American pledge not to invade Cuba
- **B1** in a secret part of the deal, revealed only years later, the USA also agreed to remove its Jupiter missiles from Turkey
- **Answer: Soviet missiles removed from Cuba in exchange for a US pledge not to invade Cuba, plus a secret US agreement to remove missiles from Turkey.**

Question 13

- **B2** 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
- **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 14

- **B2** 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
- **Answer: Kennedy convened an advisory committee to weigh the options, then chose the less confrontational naval quarantine rather than an immediate military strike.**

Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies one or two general consequences of the crisis, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail.
- **Level 3** (5-6): Explains two consequences of the crisis, each supported by accurate and relevant detail.
- **Level 4** (7-8): Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the consequences connect.
- **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 16

- **Level 1** (1-2): Simple, generalised statements about the crisis, with little organisation or sense of change over time.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Some accurate knowledge is deployed, with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may be more a list of events than a developed narrative.
- **Level 3** (5-6): The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows some analysis of how the crisis developed, with accurate supporting detail.
- **Level 4** (7-8): 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.
- **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.

Question 17

- **Level 1** (1-4): For each part answered: identifies a general point of importance, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 2** (5-8): For each part answered: begins to explain importance, supported by some accurate detail.
- **Level 3** (9-12): For each part answered: explains importance clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, with some analysis of consequences.
- **Level 4** (13-16): 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.
- **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.