# 4.6 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: Detente, Afghanistan and the End of the Cold War, 1970-91: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 10 minutes on this pack.**

**1** Give the year in which Mikhail Gorbachev became General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

**(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)**

**2** Explain two consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (December 1979).

**(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 4.6 Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: Detente, Afghanistan and the End of the Cold War, 1970-91: 10-minute Pack

## Question 1

1985 **B1**

**Answer: 1985**

## Question 2

**Level 1** Identifies one or two general consequences of the invasion, 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 invasion, 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:**

- It effectively ended the period of detente that had developed through the 1970s: the US Senate refused to ratify the already-signed SALT II treaty, and cooperation built up since Helsinki (1975) largely stalled.
- It led to direct American countermeasures, including the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, a grain embargo on the USSR, and covert US support for Afghan fighters resisting the Soviet-backed government, prolonging the conflict for years.
- It contributed to a renewed period of high tension in the early 1980s, sometimes called the 'Second Cold War', in which both sides increased defence spending and rhetoric hardened, seen in developments such as Reagan's 'evil empire' language and the Strategic Defense Initiative.
- The long, costly conflict in Afghanistan became a heavy drain on Soviet resources and morale over the following decade, and Gorbachev's decision to withdraw Soviet troops, completed in February 1989, was one sign of his wider wish to reduce the USSR's costly overseas commitments.


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