4.9 Effects of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan on Superpower Relations: 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 two domestic political consequences in the United States of taking a hard line after the Soviet invasion (one mark for a consequence and one mark for supporting detail).

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State two items the US grain and technology embargo sought to restrict to the Soviet Union (one mark for an item and one mark for a supporting detail).

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State two ways the Soviet led boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics affected the USSR's international reputation (one mark for a way and one mark for supporting detail).

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain two consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for superpower relations between 1979 and 1984.

(Total for Question 4 is 8 marks)

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5 Write a narrative account analysing how the United States used political and economic measures, including the grain and technology embargo and the 1980 Olympic boycott, to respond to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan between 1979 and 1981.

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the announcement of the US grain and technology embargo
- the decision to lead a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 5 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.9 Effects of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan on Superpower Relations: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a consequence, e.g. increased public support for stronger defence posture	**B1**
supporting detail, e.g. bolstered calls for higher military spending and tougher Cold War policies	**B1**

Answer: E.g. increased support for a stronger defence posture, leading to pressure for higher military spending and tougher US policy on the USSR.

Question 2

identifies an item, e.g. grain shipments	**B1**
supporting detail, e.g. to reduce Soviet access to agricultural imports and apply economic pressure	**B1**

Answer: E.g. grain shipments were restricted, intended to limit Soviet food imports and apply economic pressure.

Question 3

identifies an effect, e.g. portrayed the USSR as retaliatory and unwilling to separate sport from politics	**B1**
supporting detail, e.g. reduced chances for cultural exchange and reinforced Western narratives of Soviet hostility	**B1**

Answer: E.g. it made the USSR seem retaliatory and unwilling to separate sport from politics, reducing cultural exchange and reinforcing Western views of Soviet hostility.

Question 4

Level 1 Identifies one or two simple consequences with little or no supporting detail.	**1-2**
Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by some accurate detail.	**3-4**
Level 3 Explains two consequences, each supported by accurate and relevant detail showing how they affected superpower relations.	**5-6**
Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed and linked way, with precise and accurate supporting detail showing their impact on the relationship between the superpowers.	**7-8**

Indicative content:

- The US led grain and technology embargo increased economic pressure on the USSR, signalling a move away from detente and reducing trade ties that had been built up in the 1970s, undermining efforts at economic cooperation.
- The US boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics reduced cultural and sporting contact, increasing mutual hostility and demonstrating that political disputes now extended into international cultural arenas.
- The Soviet boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, largely seen as retaliation, deepened the spiral of tit for tat measures and highlighted the breakdown of trust between the blocs, making diplomatic rapprochement more difficult.
- Hardening rhetoric from both capitals, with more frequent public denunciations, made negotiation harder and increased the domestic political cost of compromise for leaders on both sides.
- Increased rearmament and higher defence spending in NATO countries and the Soviet Union followed, reducing the policy space for detente and increasing the risk of military confrontation or proxy escalation.

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Question 5

Level 1 Simple, generalised statements with little organisation or sense of sequence or analysis.	**1-2**
Level 2 Some accurate knowledge deployed and a basic sequence of events, but limited analysis of connections between them.	**3-4**
Level 3 Organised and mostly coherent narrative, showing some analysis of how actions were connected and why they mattered, supported by accurate detail.	**5-6**
Level 4 A coherent, well-organised narrative that analyses connections between events and explains clearly how and why US political and economic measures were used, fully supported by precise and accurate detail.	**7-8**

Indicative content:

- Carter initially pursued diplomatic protest but then announced economic measures, including restrictions on grain exports and controls on high technology sales to the USSR, aiming to hurt the Soviet economy and deter further aggression.
- The grain and technology embargo was intended both to apply direct economic pressure and to send a strong political signal that the US would not tolerate a major Soviet military intervention.
- Faced with domestic and international pressure to act, the US also led a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, encouraging allies to stay away to increase diplomatic isolation of the Soviet Union and to show moral condemnation.
- These measures were connected: economic sanctions limited material support and trade, while the Olympic boycott aimed to undermine Soviet prestige and rally allied opinion, together representing a coordinated political response that moved US policy away from detente.
- The narrative can include the mixed effectiveness of these measures, such as how some US allies refused full participation in the embargo or how the boycott did not force a Soviet withdrawal, but did harden Cold War divisions and encouraged reciprocal Soviet measures later.

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