Mock Exam – Unit 1 International Relations, 1943-91

1. Give two reasons from Source A which show that ‘a new mood developed in Czechoslovakia’ (2)

Do not just copy out what the source says.

A simple paraphrase (rephrasing in your own words) of part of the source gets 1 mark.

Two simple paraphrases gets you a maximum of 2 marks. Do not develop your point for this question.

* The Czechs forced the old leader to leave power. **(1)**
* The new leader Dubček introduced reforms like less censorship. **(1)**
* *The secret police had its power reduced.* ***(1)***
* *Dubček wanted Communism to be less restrictive.* ***(1)***

1. Outline two ways that the Soviet Union reacted to the ‘Prague Spring’. (4)

Make a point and develop it (give supporting evidence or explain it further).

The point gets you 1 mark. You get 2 marks if you develop that point.

Repeat this to get a maximum of 4 marks.

The Soviet Union sent Warsaw Pact troops to Czechoslovakia to re-establish control. **(1)** Dubček was arrested and taken on a military plane to Moscow. **(1)**

The reforms that had been made in Czechoslovakia were changed back. **(1)** For example, censorship was reintroduced and the leading reformer, Dubček, was forced to resign in 1969. **(1)**

*The Soviet leader Brezhnev formulated the Brezhnev Doctrine as a result of the Prague Spring.* ***(1)*** *This stated that any country in the Eastern bloc that moved away from Communism would be forced to come back to Soviet control.* ***(1)***

1. How useful are Sources B and C as evidence of the reasons for construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961? Explain your answer, using Sources B and C and your own knowledge. (10)

Explain how useful a source is for finding out about a particular event by:

Considering how useful the information in the source is (compare with own knowledge)

Consider how reliable/authoritative/typical the source is based on its Nature, Origin, Purpose and how this affects its usefulness as a source.

One way that Source B is partly useful is in the way that it shows us the message that the Communists were sending their own people about why the Berlin Wall was built. From their viewpoint, the wall was built to keep out enemies in the West, and it shows this by showing a dog with Nazi symbols being kept out of East Germany by the wall. However, as it was published in the 1960s in the Soviet Union, it is not very useful for finding out why the Berlin Wall was built as it is a piece of propaganda designed to send out a message, and not reliable. They do not mention the fact that 3 million people had crossed from East to West Berlin, as this was would have shown the Communist government as weak, therefore it is not very useful as it does not tell us the real reasons

Source C is useful because it tells us what the CIA’s spies were advising the government in 1961. As it was a secret report, it is probably quite useful for finding out about the real reasons for the building of the wall, as it was not propaganda and did not need to send a public message. On the other hand, it is from the American point of view so they may not know the real reasons why the Communist government built the Wall. It is also very useful because it tells us about the poor living standards and the flow of refugees, particularly how the ‘brain drain’ was affecting East Germany badly. It uses precise facts and statistics, and is useful for showing us how the Communist side had a major problem, helping to explain why the Berlin Wall was built.

1. a) Describe the key features of the causes of the Hungarian Uprising, 1956. (6) **OR**  
   b) Describe the key features of the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. (6)

Write three short paragraphs on the key features of the event or issue. Make a point and develop it.

1, 2 and 3 marks for up to three simple points.

4, 5 and 6 marks for developing two or three of those points with supporting knowledge/explanation

a) One cause of the Hungarian Uprising was poor living standards in Hungary. The Soviet policy of collectivisation led to a reduction of food production, and the Soviet Union exploited Hungary by paying little for the goods it bought, leading to resentment.

Another cause was the hatred of the Hungarian secret police the AVO, or AVH. Hungarians were unhappy about being spied on and controlled. 200,000 Hungarians were imprisoned by them, and thousands also lost their jobs.

Another cause of hatred was the strict control of Rakosi’s government. The newspapers and radio stations were controlled, and Rakosi established a cruel Stalinist dictatorship that the people disliked.

*Another cause of the Hungarian Uprising was the treatment of the Hungarian Church. The leader of the Catholic Church in Hungary, Cardinal Mindszenty had been imprisoned by Rakosi and Catholics were upset. When Nagy released the cardinal, Mindszenty encouraged the anti-Communists to rise up.*

b) One of the key features of the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 was Lithuania’s declaration of independence. The Lithuanian government had seen countries in the Eastern bloc leave Communist control, and they became the first part of the Soviet Union to declare its independence.

Another key feature was the ending of the Warsaw Pact in July 1991. This weakened the military power of the Soviet Union, and also showed that the Soviet Union was not prepared to fight to keep itself together.

Another key feature was the President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, was rising to power. He encouraged other Soviet republics to break away. He also defeated an attempt by the military to take over, and this encouraged him to make Russia independent of the Soviet Union.

*Another key feature was the resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev in December 1991. Gorbachev had lost control of the situation and the Soviet republics no longer obeyed him, so he resigned as leader and the next day the Soviet Union was dissolved.*

1. Explain the importance of **three** of the following in international relations. (15)

* The Potsdam Conference, 1945
* The Berlin Airlift, 1948-49
* The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962
* The impact of Gorbachev’s ‘new thinking’, 1985-89

Write a separate paragraph for three of the four bullet points (do not link the answers – this question is a 3 x 5mark question).

Use Point, Evidence, Explanation to structure your answer and remember to explain its importance in international relations/the Cold War

• The Potsdam Conference, 1945

The Potsdam Conference was important in international relations because it showed how the Allies were already falling out over what to do after the end of WWII. The Soviet army had been occupying the countries of Eastern Europe as it pushed back the Nazi army, and a Communist government had been set up in Poland. This annoyed President Truman as he wanted Eastern Europe to decide its own future, and these tensions later developed into the Iron Curtain and the Cold War between the two superpowers.

• The Berlin Airlift, 1948-49

The Berlin Airlift was important in international relations because it showed how both USA and USSR wanted to gain an advantage over the other but that both were afraid to use force. When Stalin blockaded East Berlin, the USA could have tried to send troops or break through the blockade. When America decided to supply West Berlin by plane, the Soviets could have decided to shoot down the planes. However, both sides attacked each other indirectly and this shows that neither side was prepared to start a war against the other. As a result of the airlift, both sides accepted the other’s control, and the GRD and the FRG were formed in 1949.

• The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

The Cuban Missile Crisis was important in international relations because it led to changes in the way the superpowers dealt with each other. American and the Soviet Union had got so close to starting a nuclear war that they realised that they needed to take steps to avoid this happening in the future. Therefore, the ‘hot line’ was set up so that both leaders could sort out any future crisis quickly, and they signed the Test Ban Treaty the next year, showing that relations had dramatically changed for the better.

• The impact of Gorbachev’s ‘new thinking’, 1985-89

The impact of Gorbachev’s ‘new thinking’ was extremely important in international relations because this led to the end of the Cold War. Gorbachev introduced the policies of glasnost and perestroika to the Soviet Union, which led to the relaxation of the strict Communist control that had previously existed. Because of this, people in the Eastern bloc countries were encouraged to demand their own freedom, which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and to Communist dictators such as Ceausescu in Romania being overthrown, as a result of Gorbachev’s ideas.

1. Explain why relations between the USA and the USSR changed in the years 1979-84. (13 + 3 SPaG)

You may use the following in your answer:

* The invasion of Afghanistan
* The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)

You must also include information of your own.

Write a paragraph for both bullet points, and add a factor of your own and write about that, using P.E.E. for structure.

You must link or prioritise the reasons to get full marks.

One of the reasons why relations between the USA and the USSR changed in the years 1979-84 was because of the invasion of Afghanistan. The détente that had existed in the 1970s was now destroyed, as America was horrified that the Soviet Union would invade another country. As a direct result of the invasion, the USA refused to ratify the SALT II agreements which had been signed in 1979. The USA feared that the USSR was going to threaten other countries, and this led to the Carter Doctrine and also to the decision to fund the mujahidin to fight against Soviet forces. This was the beginning of the ‘Second Cold War’ where relations were almost as low as during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Another reason why relations changed was the development of the SDI. Even though this programme never came into reality, the Soviet Union was very angry and afraid that the Americans would get the upper hand in the nuclear arms race. If the USA could shoot down nuclear missiles in space, this could mean that America could actually win a nuclear war without being destroyed itself, and this made the Soviets feel very vulnerable.

A final reason why relations changed was because of the election of President Reagan. President Reagan hated communism and called the Soviet Union and its satellites the ‘evil empire’. He wanted to stop the spread of communism President Reagan had vastly increased spending on weapons, and the Soviet Union was struggling to keep up. This aggressive stance by America heightened the tensions between the two sides and some of Reagan’s advisers were even suggesting that military action should be considered against the Soviet Union.

The invasion of Afghanistan was the key factor. It destroyed the SALT talks and then pushed the USA into making new policies such as the Carter Doctrine and also helping the mujahidin. Moreover, it led to Reagan being very aggressive towards the Soviet Union and led to the Second Cold War. While the development of SDI was significant, it did not dramatically change relations in the same way that the invasion of Afghanistan had, and as Reagan came to power after the invasion of Afghanistan, his aggressive policies were a result of the reaction to the invasion of Afghanistan.