

1943-91 International Relations Mock H

Question 1 – Study Source A

Source A: From a GCSE History website. This extract is talking about relations between the USA and Cuba from 1959-60.

In 1959, Fidel Castro took power in Cuba. This was very threatening to the USA because it was right next to America. In 1960, Castro made a trade agreement with Russia, whereby Cuba sent sugar to Russia, in return for oil, machines and money. This frightened the Americans more, and in 1960 they stopped trading with Cuba. In retaliation, Cuba nationalised all American-owned companies.

5

1. Give **two** ways from Source A which show how relations between the USA and Cuba got worse, 1959-60.

(2)

1 Castro had made a trade deal between Cuba and the USA's enemy, Russia. _____

2 Cuba then decided to nationalise American-owned businesses. _____

2. Outline **two** steps that the USA and the USSR took to improve relations after the Cuban Missile Crisis. **(4)**

1 One step they took was to install a hotline. The Moscow–Washington hotline allowed direct communication between the leaders of the United States and the USSR.

2 Another step they took was to sign the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963. This prohibited the testing of nuclear weapons in outer space, underwater or in the atmosphere.

Question 3 - Study Sources B and C

Source B: From President Carter's annual State of the Union Speech to the American public, January 1980.

The region which is now threatened by Soviet troops in Afghanistan is of great strategic importance: it contains more than two-thirds of the world's exportable oil. The Soviet effort to dominate Afghanistan has brought Soviet military forces to within 300 miles of the Indian Ocean and close to the Straits of Hormuz, a waterway through which most of the world's oil must flow. Let our position be absolutely clear: An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force. ⁵

Source C: A political cartoon published in British newspaper The Sun in July 1980, showing Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.



3 How useful are Sources B and C as evidence of the effects of the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 on international relations?

Explain your answer using Sources B and C and your own knowledge.

(10)

Source B is rather useful as it is a speech directly from President Carter of the USA. He is speaking in January 1980, shortly after the invasion of Afghanistan on Christmas Day, 1979, and it shows his response to the invasion. As it is a speech, it is useful because it shows Carter's official response; however, as it is said in public it is partly used to get his own point of view across and he does not reveal his private thoughts or actions. Overall, this source is useful as it shows us the USA's official position and anger about the invasion of Afghanistan, coming directly from the President.

Source B is also partly useful because it describes the 'Carter Doctrine' which stated that "any attempt by any outside force" to threaten Middle Eastern oil would be seen as an attack on America, and could be responded to by "military force". This is partly useful because it does show how America wanted to push the Soviet Union back – and the CIA did fund and train the mujahideen to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan. However, the source seems to suggest that military force would be used, but in fact no American armies were sent to fight in Afghanistan. This lessens its usefulness as it does not tell us all of the story.

Source C is useful to show us the effects of the Soviet Union on international relations as it is from a British newspaper, which reflected opinions in the West. It was published around the time of the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. A cartoon can express a political point, and it clearly shows a negative opinion (as seen by Brezhnev running on skulls), reflecting the West's dislike for the invasion, and clearly shows that international relations were at a low point, seeing the USSR as aggressive. This source is therefore very useful as it clearly shows a big effect on international relations.

Source C is only partly useful in terms of what it tells us, however, as it does not specifically show a boycott. While it does show skulls, that represent the dead from the war in Afghanistan, it fails to mention any actions taken by the West – it does not refer to America refusing to ratify SALT II or that the USA stopped exporting grain to the USSR, so its usefulness is limited as it is more opinion-based than factual.

Answer **EITHER** Question 4(a) **OR** Question 4(b).

- 4 (a) Describe the key features of the 1985 Geneva Summit Conference. (6)
- 4 (b) Describe the key features of the collapse of the USSR, 1990-91 (6)

One key feature was that it was the first meeting between US President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev. It was held on November 19 and 20, 1985 and the two leaders met for the first time to hold talks on international diplomatic relations and the arms race. Reagan's goal was to convince Gorbachev that America desired peace above all else.

Another key feature is that at first the two leaders disagreed. Gorbachev argued that the United States did not trust them and that its ruling class was trying to keep the people uneasy. Ronald Reagan said that the Soviets were paranoid about the USA, while Gorbachev objected to Reagan's idea of SDI (or 'Star Wars').

Answer Question 5

5 Explain the **importance** of **three** of the following in **international relations**.

(15)

- The Helsinki Accords, 1975
- Reagan's 'Evil Empire' speech, 1983
- The Olympic boycotts, 1980-1984
- The 1960 Paris summit meeting

(Total for each part = 5 marks. Total for Question 5 = 15 marks)

Indicate your **FIRST** choice.

Indicate which part you are answering by marking a cross in the box . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new topic with a cross .

- The Helsinki Accords, 1975
- Reagan's 'Evil Empire' speech, 1983
- The Olympic boycotts, 1980-1984
- The 1960 Paris summit meeting

The Helsinki Accords were important in international relations because they showed co-operation and understanding between the two superpowers. For the first time both sides promised to respect the borders between European countries, including East and West Germany. For the first time, the Soviet Union signed up to respect human rights, including freedom of conscience, religion or belief. This was important as both sides now publicly promised to respect the same values and not to act peacefully towards each other. By signing up to this agreement together, the USA and the USSR showed they were willing to talk and agree things amicably, and this demonstrated that tensions between East and West had reduced considerably, meaning that this was an important moment as it was a high point of détente.

You would then write two more (completely separate) answers in the same way on two more of these events.

6* Explain why relations between the USA and the Soviet Union changed in the years 1946-55.

(13)

One reason why relations changed was because of the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan, officially called the European Recovery Program) involved the USA giving massive amounts of aid to Europe to help it recover from World War II. The \$13 billion given was also designed to prevent the spread of Communism, as countries that received this aid had to join the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), which was influenced by the USA. When the Soviets realised this, they reacted angrily and ordered all of the Eastern European countries under its influence not to accept Marshall Aid. Therefore relations worsened as both sides refused to co-operate, as both American and Russia wanted to extend their influence in Europe.

Another reason why relations changed was because of the Berlin Blockade. This was the first major crisis of the Cold War, as both sides were now clearly in competition. Stalin closed off the access routes to West Berlin on 24 June 1948, so that the West could not send supplies by rail, road or canal through the Soviet zone of Germany. This changed relations dramatically as both sides were now confronting each other – Stalin showed that he was ruthless enough to starve West Berlin until it accepted his authority over it. The Americans immediately began an airlift, a very obvious act of defiance towards the blockade. Relations therefore became a lot more tense, although both sides were careful to avoid a military confrontation.

A third reason why relations changed was because of the formation of NATO. This military alliance, founded in April 1949, included the USA and its allies, such as Britain and France and was designed to protect its members against attack. It was a response to what the USA thought was an increasingly aggressive Soviet Union that was expanding its sphere of influence. Relations therefore changed between the USA and the USSR because now, instead of working together in the wartime alliance against Hitler, the USA clearly showed that it could not work militarily with the Soviet Union, and was prepared to defend itself against a potential attack. The formation of NATO showed worsening relations as the USA and the USSR now seemed to be on opposite sides.

The most important reason why relations changed was because of the Berlin Blockade. This was because this was the first time that there was a definite confrontation between the two sides, and both sides were struggling over control of West Berlin. The Marshall Plan, by contrast, was not a direct confrontation; however, it was still important as it showed the divisions between the two sides. Nonetheless, it only confirmed divisions that had already started to develop. The least important reason was the formation of NATO because by 1949, it was already clear how East and West had divided. The Marshall Plan showed these divisions clearly for the first time, then the Berlin Blockade was a major struggle to test these divisions, and after the conclusion of the Berlin Blockade with failure for Stalin, the formation of NATO simply accepted the new divisions between East and West.