

## Superpower Relations c.1941 - 1991: Personal Learning Checklist

If you can answer all these your knowledge of this topic is really good. Practice answering the questions and get someone to test you.

Highlight the questions **red**, **amber** or **green** depending on whether you can answer them. You can then use the Quizlet sets for each one to look up the answers.

### Introduction to the Superpowers C.1941

1. Who were the "big three" during WW2?
2. Who were the big Superpowers at the end of WW2?

### Presidents of the USA

3. When did President Roosevelt die and what had his attitude to the USSR been?
4. When was President Truman in office and what was his feelings towards Communism/USSR?
5. What was Truman's "Truman Doctrine"?
6. When was President Nixon in office and what was his attitude towards the USSR?
7. When was Jimmy Carter President and what was the "Carter Doctrine" he developed?
8. When was President Reagan in office and what was his attitude towards communism and the USSR?

### Premiers of the USSR

9. When did Stalin die and, before that, what did he want to ensure for the USSR the end of WW2?
10. When was Khrushchev's time as Premier and how was he less "hardline" than Stalin?
11. When did Brezhnev become Premier of the USSR and what was his "Brezhnev Doctrine" (1968)?
12. How was Gorbachev different to the other Soviet leaders?
13. Who became President of Russia once Gorbachev resigned in 1991?

### Other leaders of Western countries

14. Who was British Prime Minister at the end of WW2?

### Leaders in Eastern countries who stood up to the USSR

15. Who did Imre Nagy replace as leader of Hungary in 1956 and how did he annoy the leadership of the USSR?
16. How did Alexander Dubcek try to bring in "Socialism with a human face" in Czechoslovakia in 1968?
17. Who was Lech Walesa and what was the name of the illegal Trade Union he founded in Poland in 1980?

### Leaders that were allies (friends) of the USSR

18. Who replaced Imre Nagy as leader of Hungary in 1956?
19. When did Fidel Castro become leader of Cuba and why was he "pushed" to link Cuba with the USSR?
20. What was the name of the pro-Soviet leader who was put in charge of Afghanistan after the USSR invaded in 1979?

### Discussions and debate at the Wartime conferences (1943-45)

21. What were the three conferences held between 1943 and 1945 to discuss the future of the world after WW2?
22. What was agreed at the Tehran Conference in 1943?
23. What was agreed at the Yalta Conference in Feb 1945?
24. Who replaced FDR as President of the USA for the Potsdam Conference?
25. What created tension at the Potsdam Conference in Jul-Aug 1945?
26. When did the USA use the atomic bombs on Japan and what war ended as a result of their use?

### **Growing suspicion and competition between the USA and the USSR (1945-47)**

27. What two things did the USA's use of the atomic bomb lead to the USSR doing?
28. In what year did the USSR get its own atomic bomb?
29. What did George Kennan's Long Telegram say about the USSR in 1946?
30. What did the USSR's Novikov telegram say about the USA in reply?
31. What Eastern European countries became Satellite States of the USSR up to 1948?
32. Give examples of how different countries, especially Poland, came to be Satellite States
33. What did Winston Churchill famously declare, in 1946, was happening in Europe
34. How did the USA view the USSR's creation of "Satellite States"?
35. What was Stalin's justification for Satellite States?

### **The Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan (1947-1948)**

36. What was the main message of the Truman Doctrine Speech in 1947?
37. What was happening in Greece and Turkey that moved him to make the speech when he did?
38. What was the purpose of the Marshall Plan?
39. What country had a Communist takeover in February 1948?
40. What was the purpose of the USSR's Cominform?
41. What was the USSR's alternative to the Marshall Plan, set up in 1949?

### **Crisis over Berlin in Germany (1948)**

42. How was Germany divided at the end of WW2?
43. When was bizonia and trizonia created with the western zones of Germany?
44. When did the western zones introduce a new currency and what was the importance of this?
45. How did Stalin respond, in June 1948?
46. How did the USA respond?
47. What was formed on the 23rd May, three days after the end of the Blockade?

### **The creation of two armed camps**

48. What countries joined NATO (1949)?
49. What countries joined the Warsaw Pact (1955)?
50. What was the purpose of each?

### **The growth of the Arms Race in the 1950s**

51. How much more powerful was the hydrogen bomb the USA developed in 1952?
52. What did the USSR develop in 1953?
53. What is an ICBM?
54. What failed to be agreed at a summit meeting in July 1955?

### **The Hungarian Uprising**

55. What was the secret speech?
56. Why were the people of Hungary unhappy in 1956?
57. Who replaced Rakosi as leader of the country?
58. What did supporters of Nagy do when they saw Soviet tanks and soldiers?
59. Why did the USA not want to get involved (two reasons)?

### **The refugee problem in Berlin (1958)**

60. What was the standard of living like in East Germany?
61. Why did skilled workers particularly want to leave East Germany?
62. Why were older and more vulnerable people happy to stay in East Germany?
63. What was Khrushchev's ultimatum over the city of Berlin, issued on the 27th November 1958?
64. Due to the fact no side, the east or the west wanted a war, what took place to try to sort out the issue of Berlin?

### **The summit meetings of 1959-61 (Talks to try and sort out the future of Berlin)**

65. What decision was made at the Geneva summit in May 1959?
66. What major event led to a breakdown in relations during talks in Paris in qwMay 1960?
67. How did US President Kennedy appear tough and determined over Berlin at talks with

Khrushchev in Vienna in 1961?

### **The building of the Berlin Wall (1961)**

68. What did East German troops begin doing on the night of August 12th 1961?
69. How long was the eventual concrete wall?
70. How did people try to escape East Berlin while the wall was being built?
71. How did the wall help the USSR but also show them to be the “bad guys”?
72. How was the west able to use the Wall as a propaganda victory?
73. What was the theme of the speech that President Kennedy gave in front of the wall in the June of 1963?

### **The Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961)**

74. What had happened in Cuba in 1959?
75. What had President Eisenhower began planning for in 1960?
76. How big was the invasion force that landed at the Bay of Pigs on the 17th April 1961?
77. Why did the invasion force of Cuban ‘exiles’ fail (at least two reasons)?
78. How did the failed invasion make the USA look like hypocrites?
79. What did Castro do afterwards to demonstrate the forging of stronger links between Cuba and the USSR?

### **The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)**

80. Why was Khrushchev taking the steps to place missiles in Cuba (at least two reasons)?
81. What action did President Kennedy have to choose between doing?
82. What was set up around Cuba on the 22nd October and for what purpose?
83. What happened when the USSR’s ships reached the Blockade on the 24th October?
84. What was the difference between two telegrams that Khrushchev sent Kennedy on the 26th and 27th October?
85. What did the Americans secretly agree to do as part of the deal for the USSR removing their missiles from Cuba?
86. What was the purpose of the hotline set up between Washington DC and Moscow after the crisis?
87. Where did the nuclear test ban treaty, signed in August 1963, prevent nuclear tests taking place?
88. What was the purpose of the 1967 “Outer Space” treaty?
89. What did the 1968 nuclear non-proliferation treaty mean?

### **The Prague Spring (1968)**

90. Why were citizens in Czechoslovakia annoyed?
91. What kind of Communism did Alexander Dubcek want for Czechoslovakia?
92. What reforms were part of Dubcek’s ‘Prague Spring’?
93. Why was the Soviet leader, Brezhnev, worried about these reforms?
94. What eventually happened on 20th August, 1968?
95. What were the Czech army ordered to do while the Warsaw Pact troops invaded?
96. What was the Brezhnev Doctrine that was developed because of events in Czechoslovakia?
97. How did other countries in the Warsaw Pact (Romania and Yugoslavia) respond to events in Prague?
98. How did Poland and East Germany respond?
99. Why was the USA in a difficult position to take meaningful action against the USSR (two reasons)?

### **Détente (easing of tension between the Superpowers)**

100. Why did the USA want easier relations at this time?
101. Why did the USSR want easier relations at this time?
102. What was in SALT 1?
103. What three agreements were made as part of the Helsinki Accords in August 1975?
104. What was “in each of the three baskets”?
105. Why did Basket 3 lead to some disagreement on the part of the USSR?
106. What was SALT 2 supposed to include?

107. What events had led to the spirit of detente beginning to fade by 1979?

### **The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (1979)**

- 108. Why did Soviet troops invade on Christmas Eve 1979?
- 109. What was the name of the pro-Soviet leader put in place in Afghanistan?
- 110. What were the name of the Afghan fighters who stood up against Babrak Kamal?
- 111. How much did the war cost the USSR per year?
- 112. How many Soviet troops were killed?
- 113. How did Carter respond to the Soviet invasion?

### **President Reagan**

- 114. What was Reagan's attitude to the USSR and what did he call the USSR in a speech in 1983?
- 115. How did he boost and develop defense in the USA?
- 116. What was the "Reagan Doctrine"?
- 117. What was SDI (The Strategic Defense Initiative)?
- 118. What treaty from 1967 did it break?
- 119. How did SDI put pressure on the USSR?

### **Premier Gorbachev**

- 120. What is Gorbachev alleged to have said to his wife about the USSR when he became leader in 1985?
- 121. What is the English translation of his two policies, Glasnost and Perestroika?
- 122. How did these policies change the USSR?

### **Summits/discussions between Reagan and Gorbachev**

- 123. Why did Gorbachev go to the Reykjavik summit with a desire to find agreement on reducing nuclear weapons?
- 124. What Treaty was signed in December 1987 between the USA and USSR?
- 125. What did Gorbachev announce to the UN in November 1988?

### **The break-up of the Warsaw Pact**

- 126. When did Hungary take its fence with non-Communist Austria down?
- 127. What happened in June 1989 after Solidarity was legalised in Poland?
- 128. What did huge numbers of East Germans begin doing in September 1989 and through which country?
- 129. When did the border between East and West Germany open and what happened to the Wall?
- 130. What was the "Velvet Revolution" in Czechoslovakia?
- 131. What happened to the brutal Communist President of Romania in December 1989?
- 132. What reasons were there for why the Warsaw Pact countries began to act so independently (at least three reasons)?

### **The break-up of the USSR**

- 133. How did Communist hardliners turn on Gorbachev because of the break-up of the Warsaw Pact?
- 134. What happened when Gorbachev announced his resignation as leader of the USSR on Christmas Day 1991?

### **Practice exam questions**

**Please highlight all of the exam questions that you have completed in another colour**

### UNIT 1: Origins of the Cold War, 1941-58

- Explain the importance of the Conferences (1943-45) for relations between USA and USSR (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Potsdam Conference (8)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Truman Doctrine. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Marshall Plan. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Truman Doctrine & Marshall Plan in the development of the Cold War. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the setting up of Cominform and Comecon. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49. (8)
- Write a narrative account of the Berlin Blockade and Airlift (8)
- Explain the importance of the arms race in the development of the Cold War (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Hungarian Uprising. (8 marks)

### UNIT 2: Cold War Crises, 1958-1970

- Explain the importance of the building of the Berlin wall (8)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the building of the Berlin Wall (1961) for relations between the USA and Soviet Union. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Cuban Revolution of 1959. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Bay of Pigs invasion in the development of the Cold War. (8 marks)
- Write a narrative account analysing the main events in superpower rivalry in Cuba in the years 1959-1962. You may use the following in your answer: The Bay of Pigs invasion, 1961; The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962. You **MUST** also use information of your own (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Prague Spring on relations between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences for international relations of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. (8 marks)
- Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. You may use the following in your answer: The Prague Spring; The Soviet Union re-establishes control. You **MUST** also use information of your own. (8 marks)

### UNIT 3: End of the Cold War, 1970-91

- Explain **TWO** consequences of Nixon and Brezhnev's Moscow meeting in 1972. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of SALT 1 for the development of the Cold War. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Helsinki Agreement for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of Gorbachev coming to power in the Soviet Union. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the INF Treaty for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union (8 marks)
- Write a narrative account analysing the key events in attempts to reduce tension between East and West in the 1970s and 1980s. You may use the following in your answer: The Helsinki Agreements; Gorbachev's 'New Thinking'. You **MUST** also use information of your own. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. (8 marks)
- Explain the importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union of Reagan becoming president. (8 marks)
- Explain **TWO** consequences of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' on eastern Europe. (8 marks)
- Write a narrative account analysing the main developments in the collapse of the Berlin Wall during 1989. You may use the following in your answer: The impact of Sinatra Doctrine; Developments in East Germany. You **MUST** also use information of your own. (8 marks)
- Write a narrative account analysing the key events in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe in the years 1989-91. You may use the following in your answer: The impact of 'New Thinking'; the fall of the Berlin Wall. You **MUST** also use information of your own. (8 marks)