

GCSE History online network event: Period study

**Updated November 2024 to focus on
Superpower relations**

1HI0–2203

Delegate Booklet

Contents

Question 1: mark schemes, Answers A, B and C	2–5
Question 2: mark schemes, Answers D and E	6–10
Question 3: mark schemes, Answers F and G	11–15
Examiner commentaries on Answers A–G	16–17

This pack is for delegates attending the GCSE History network event for the Period study. This pack contains the exemplar material that you will need during the meeting, as well as a space to type any notes or comments.

This GCSE History network will allow delegates to:

- remind themselves of purpose, content structure and assessment model for the Period study
- review and discuss student exemplar answers
- network and share teaching ideas and strategies

Period study – Superpower relations exemplar student answers

Question 1: Consequences

Exemplar A: Summer 2022 series

Question		
1		<p>Explain two consequences of Gorbachev's 'new thinking'.</p> <p>Target: Analysis of second order concepts: consequence [AO2]; Knowledge and understanding of features and characteristics [AO1].</p> <p>AO2: 4 marks.</p> <p>AO1: 4 marks.</p> <p>NB mark each consequence separately (2 x 4 marks).</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple or generalised comment is offered about a consequence. [AO2] Generalised information about the topic is included, showing limited knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features of the period are analysed to explain a consequence. [AO2] Specific information about the topic is added to support the explanation, showing good knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]
<p>Marking instructions</p> <p>Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance (page 3).</p> <p>Performance in AO1 and AO2 is interdependent. An answer displaying no qualities of AO2 cannot be awarded more than the top of Level 1, no matter how strong performance is in AO1; markers should note that the expectation for AO1 is that candidates demonstrate both knowledge <i>and</i> understanding.</p> <p>Indicative content guidance</p> <p>Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. While specific references are made in the indicative content below, this does not imply that these must be included; other relevant material must also be credited.</p> <p>Relevant points may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorbachev's 'new thinking' made it clear that defence spending had to be cut and in 1988 the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the expensive war with Afghanistan began. Gorbachev's ideas led to improved US-Soviet relations and agreements made, such as the 1987 INF Treaty, laying the foundations for further reductions in nuclear weapons. As part of 'new thinking', the Sinatra Doctrine led to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the USSR's former satellite states, and eastern European governments were freed from Soviet control. Although Gorbachev believed 'new thinking' would strengthen communist control of eastern Europe, it instead encouraged the growth of reform movements that rejected communism. 		

Answer A – Consequence 1 only

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- 1 Explain **two** consequences of Gorbachev's 'new thinking'.

Consequence 1

One consequence of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' was that protests throughout Eastern Europe occurred, leading to free elections and the collapse of communism in places like Poland, Hungary and East Germany. Gorbachev introduced perestroika and Glasnost, openness and restructuring which included weakening their sphere of influence in East Europe. As a result, people in these countries called for change because Gorbachev outlined that he wouldn't interfere. This meant with elections capitalist governments got voted back into power effectively ending communism in the previous Soviet-controlled areas. Therefore, a consequence of Gorbachev's new thinking was that widespread Eastern European protests meant communism was abolished in these countries and the Berlin Wall was demolished.

Exemplars B and C: Summer 2024 series

Question		
1		<p>Explain two consequences of the Prague Spring (Czechoslovakia, 1968).</p> <p>Target: Analysis of second order concepts: consequence [AO2]; Knowledge and understanding of features and characteristics [AO1]. AO2: 4 marks. AO1: 4 marks. NB mark each consequence separately (2 x 4 marks).</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple or generalised comment is offered about a consequence. [AO2] Generalised information about the topic is included, showing limited knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features of the period are analysed to explain a consequence. [AO2] Specific information about the topic is added to support the explanation, showing good knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]

Indicative content guidance

Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. While specific references are made in the indicative content below, this does not imply that these must be included; other relevant material must also be credited.

Relevant points may include:

- Dubcek's reforms encouraged opposition to communist rule in Czechoslovakia with the formation of the Social Democrat political party, which wanted even more reform.
- The Soviets and other eastern European governments, concerned that Czechoslovakia might leave the Warsaw Pact and allow NATO to expand, sent troops into Prague and removed Dubcek from power.
- Soviet fears of any further challenges to communist rule led to the Brezhnev Doctrine, which stated the USSR's right to intervene in its satellite states if events were seen to threaten the security of the Eastern Bloc.
- The Soviet invasion was met with protests from the West, especially from the USA and Britain, but without any direct military support for Czechoslovakia.

Answer B

1 Explain **two** consequences of the Prague Spring (Czechoslovakia, 1968).

Consequence 1:

Dubcek's leadership meant that Czechoslovakia tried to rebel against the USSR's ideology, resulting in a Russian military march in Prague, causing the USSR to advocate its power and controlling abilities to the world, highlighting the strengths of communism.

Answer C

Consequence 2:

Another consequence is that ~~the~~ it highlighted USA as weak, due to the fact they didn't aid Czechoslovakia when faced with communist difficulties, despite the promises of Truman in the Truman doctrine stating that USA will aid any communist countries who want to fight against communism.

Question 2: Analytical narrative

Exemplars D and E: Summer 2023 series

Question		
2		<p>Write a narrative account analysing US-Soviet relations in the years 1945-47.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>You may use the following in your answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yalta Conference (February 1945) • Cominform (1947) <p>You must also use information of your own.</p> </div> <p>Target: Analytical narrative (i.e. analysis of causation/consequence/change) [AO2]; Knowledge and understanding of features and characteristics) [AO1]. AO2: 4 marks. AO1: 4 marks.</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A simple or generalised narrative is provided; the account shows limited analysis and organisation of the events included. [AO2] • Limited knowledge and understanding of the events is shown. [AO1]
2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrative is given, showing some organisation of material into a sequence of events leading to an outcome. The account of events shows some analysis of the linkage between them, but some passages of the narrative may lack coherence and organisation. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the events. [AO1] <p><i>Maximum 4 marks for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</i></p>
3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrative is given which organises material into a clear sequence of events leading to an outcome. The account of events analyses the linkage between them and is coherent and logically structured. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the key features or characteristics of the events. [AO1] <p><i>No access to Level 3 for answers which do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</i></p>

Marking instructions

Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance (page 3).

Performance in AO1 and AO2 is interdependent. An answer displaying no qualities of AO2 cannot be awarded more than the top of Level 1, no matter how strong performance is in AO1; markers should note that the expectation for AO1 is that candidates demonstrate both knowledge and understanding.

The middle mark in Levels 2 and 3 may be achieved by stronger performance in either AO1 or AO2.

Indicative content guidance

Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. While specific references are made in the indicative content below, this does not imply that these must be included; other relevant material must also be credited.

Relevant points may include:

- At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, US-Soviet relations were generally positive, with agreements on issues such as free elections in countries liberated from Nazi control, a United Nations and the division of Germany into four zones of occupation.
 - By Potsdam, in July 1945, US-Soviet relations were strained as a consequence of Truman's tougher approach towards Stalin and the USA's successful testing of an atomic bomb.
 - In 1946, as a result of reports contained in Kennan's Long Telegram and the Novikov Telegram both the USA and USSR became more fearful of a future conflict.
 - Between 1945-47, major strains in US-Soviet relations developed with the USSR's establishment of satellite states in eastern Europe under Moscow's control.
-
- In 1946, relations between the two Superpowers worsened as a result of Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech, which was regarded by Stalin as deliberate provocation.
 - US-Soviet relations significantly deteriorated in 1947, with the USSR's setting up of Cominform in response to the USA's announcement of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan.

Answer D (annotated – AO1 blue, AO2 red)

Firstly, relations started positive with the Yalta Conference. The USSR and USA had agreed to both fight Germany as well as Japan together. This meant they had a common goal. However the US deployed the atomic bomb on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in August 1945. This lead to the beginning of the arms race as the Soviet Union felt intimidated by the sudden american display of power and wanted to catch up. The arms race began after the dropping of the atomic bomb and involved a souring of relations as the two were now directly competing with each other. It was compounded by the Long and Navikov telegrams which both highlighted anxieties at the other and the need for the preparation of war. It also highlighted ideological differences. This lead to the Truman Doctrine and Containment as the two countries also sought to settle their ideological dominance. The Truman Doctrine ~~to~~ focused

on the containment of the spread of communism and therefore resulted in Marshall Aid being given to European countries to alleviate their ^{economic} struggles ~~in~~ after the war, making them less likely to turn to communism. Cominform was created by the Soviets as a direct response to this and organised communist countries, urging them to reject the Marshall plan. This therefore increased tension between the two countries as they were competing against each other for the control ~~over~~ of Europe and therefore US-Soviet relations decreased in 1947.

Answer E

2 Write a narrative account analysing US-Soviet relations in the years 1945–47.

(8)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Yalta Conference (February 1945)
- Cominform (1947) ^{T Truman doctrine}
- Marshall aid -

You **must** also use information of your own.

After the Yalta Conference, US-Soviet relations were still very positive and as allies and members of the grand alliance their relationship was strong. In June 1945 was the Potsdam Conference and the third time that the grand alliance came together and by that time the countries in the grand alliance had agreed on how to split Germany after the war and that the capital city, Berlin, would also be split. Both the US and the Soviet Union were in agreement with the decision however Berlin was part of the Soviet's part of Germany so there was a bit of resentment in that regard.

Question 3: Significance of x for y

Exemplar F: Summer 2022 series

Question		
3		<p>Explain two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the Marshall Plan (1947) for relations between East and West. • The importance of the arms race in the years 1949-58 for the development of the Cold War. • The importance of the Carter Doctrine (1980) for relations between the USA and the USSR. <p>Target: Analysis of second order concepts: consequence/significance [AO2]; Knowledge and understanding of features and characteristics [AO1]. AO2: 8 marks. AO1: 8 marks. NB mark each part of the answer separately (2 x 8 marks).</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A simple or generalised answer is given, showing limited development and organisation of material. [AO2] • Limited knowledge and understanding of the topic is shown. [AO1]
2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation is given, showing an attempt to analyse importance. It shows some reasoning, but some passages may lack coherence and organisation. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]
3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation is given, showing analysis of importance. It shows a line of reasoning that is coherent and logically structured. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied. [AO1]
<p>Marking instructions</p> <p>Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance (page 3).</p> <p>Performance in AO1 and AO2 is interdependent. An answer displaying no qualities of AO2 cannot be awarded more than the top of Level 1, no matter how strong performance is in AO1a; markers should note that the expectation for AO1 is that candidates demonstrate both knowledge <i>and</i> understanding.</p> <p>The middle mark in Levels 2 and 3 may be achieved by stronger performance in either AO1 or AO2.</p> <p>Indicative content guidance</p> <p>Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. While specific references are made in the indicative content below, this does not imply that these must be included; other relevant material must also be credited.</p> <p>The importance of the Marshall Plan (1947) for relations between East and West.</p> <p>Relevant points may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different views of the Marshall Plan, from Truman's stated aim of aiding war-torn Europe to the USSR regarding it as 'dollar imperialism', clearly showed the divisions in Europe. • The Marshall Plan had a significant impact on the economic division of Europe as the West benefitted with rapidly improving economies whereas eastern European countries were forbidden by Stalin to benefit from the USA's 'dollar imperialism'. • The Marshall Plan accelerated the division of Europe into East and West, with Stalin setting up Comecon to develop trade within the Eastern bloc as a means to compete with the West. 		

- Cominform's official rejection of the Marshall Plan, together with Soviet propaganda comparing the USA to Nazi Germany, increased the political East-West divide.

Answer F

Indicate your FIRST choice on this page.

Indicate which question 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 question with a cross ☒.

☒ The importance of the Marshall Plan (1947) for relations between East and West.

☒ The importance of the arms race in the years 1949–58 for the development of the Cold War.

☒ The importance of the Carter Doctrine (1980) for relations between the USA and the USSR.

6 The Marshall Plan ~~was~~ ^{detailed} ~~importance~~ ^{the}
~~for~~ ~~for~~ USA helping both Greece and
 Turkey with financial aid of \$400 million
 in order for them to rebuild after world war
 2. Military aid like guns and planes
 in order ~~for~~ ^{to defend themselves} ~~defence~~, and civilian aid
 for them to pay for food and
 clothes for a basic level of living. This
 was bad for relations between the
~~East~~ and west because it seemed like
 the west were trying to buy
 both Turkey's and Greece's loyalty. This
 was a problem for the East/USSR
 since both Turkey and Greece are close
 and if they become allies with ~~the~~ ^{the} USA
 it could result in war.

Exemplar G: Summer 2024 series

Question		
3		<p>Explain two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of the Yalta Conference (February 1945) for relations between East and West. The importance of Khrushchev's Berlin ultimatum (1958) for tension between East and West. The importance of SALT 1 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union in the 1970s. <p>Target: Analysis of second order concepts: consequence/significance [AO2]. Knowledge and understanding of features and characteristics [AO1]. AO2: 8 marks. AO1: 8 marks. NB mark each part of the answer separately (2 x 8 marks).</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple or generalised answer is given, showing limited development and organisation of material. [AO2] Limited knowledge and understanding of the topic is shown. [AO1]
2	3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An explanation is given, showing an attempt to analyse importance. It shows some reasoning, but some passages may lack coherence and organisation. [AO2] Accurate and relevant information is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]
3	6–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An explanation is given, showing analysis of importance. It shows a line of reasoning that is coherent and logically structured. [AO2] Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied. [AO1]

Marking instructions

Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance (page 3).

Performance in AO1 and AO2 is interdependent. An answer displaying **no** qualities of AO2 cannot be awarded more than the top of Level 1, no matter how strong performance is in AO1a; markers should note that the expectation for AO1 is that candidates demonstrate both knowledge *and* understanding.

The middle mark in Levels 2 and 3 may be achieved by stronger performance in either AO1 or AO2.

Indicative content guidance

Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. While specific references are made in the indicative content below, this does not imply that these must be included; other relevant material must also be credited.

The importance of the Yalta Conference (February 1945) for relations between East and West.

Relevant points may include:

- At Yalta, agreements were reached by the Allies to work together on key issues that would impact East-West relations, such as the division of a post-war Germany and the USSR joining the war against Japan.
- At the Yalta Conference, the Allies agreed that, after the Second World War, a United Nations organisation would be set up to maintain world peace, thereby improving East-West relations.
- At the Yalta Conference, no decision could be reached on the amount of reparations that Germany should pay, putting some strain on relations between East and West, with the decision postponed for a later meeting.
- At the Yalta Conference, disagreement over Poland's future led to tense relations between the Allies; Stalin's desires for a pro-communist Polish government were regarded by the West as Soviet expansionism.

Answer G

The importance of the Yalta conference for relations between the east and west was that they were good as at Yalta in February 1945 there were a lot of agreements. At Yalta the big three, Britain, USA and USSR discussed what would happen to Germany once Nazi Germany was defeated. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin agreed that once Nazi Germany was defeated it ~~so~~ would be split into four different zones each being controlled by Britain, USA, USSR and France. And in turn the city of Berlin would also be split into four zones controlled by each of the four countries. This was good for the relations of East and West as they were agreeing to help each other. Another thing discussed in the Yalta Conference was that Stalin agreed to help the

president of the USA Roosevelt ~~to that~~ to join the US side and fight against the Japanese, if the US agreed to help fight Nazi Germany with him, which would be to his favour as it was only the red Soviet army ~~that~~ alone fighting in Germany at that current moment. This agreement strengthened East and West relations as this agreement helped both of them out. Another ~~the~~ agreement that happened at Yalta was for Europe to all have ~~However Stalin still w~~ free elections again and

Examiner commentary on Answers A–G

Question 1

Answer A

The first consequence shows that Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika weakened the USSR's sphere of influence in eastern Europe, leading eventually to the collapse of communism in many of those countries.

The link between Gorbachev's 'new thinking' and subsequent developments is made clear and supported with specific detail.

Answer A received the full 4 marks.

Answer B

This answer received low Level 2 with stronger performance at AO2 with 'tried to rebel' and 'advocate its power and controlling abilities'. The response is weaker for AO1 and so therefore the response is low Level 2.

Answer B received 3 marks.

Answer C

This response is high Level 1. The response from 'despite the promises of Truman' onwards is unrewardable as it shows a misunderstanding of the Truman Doctrine promising to aid communist countries rather than the principle of containing the spread of communism.

Answer C received 2 marks.

Question 2

Answer D

The response has a clear beginning, middle and end, effectively using the stimulus to frame their response.

For AO2 there is a clear narrative giving a coherent and logical sequence of events leading to a conclusion and there is clear linkage between the events (red underline).

For AO1 accurate and relevant information shows good knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of events within the specified time period of the question (blue underline).

Answer D received Level 3, 8 marks.

Answer E

The response is mid-Level 2. The response shows a sequence of events but with only some analysis of the linkage between them. Some accurate and relevant information is added to show some knowledge and understanding of the events.

Candidates should try and cover the date range stated in the set question which will allow them show sufficient information and knowledge for higher marks to be awarded for AO1.

Answer E received 4 marks.

Question 3

Answer F

The answer is high Level 2 because it includes valid, specific detail (although the suggestion that the Marshall Plan provided military equipment is inaccurate) and suggests that this was an important policy. It also offers some explanation of the impact of this on East-West relations.

Answer F is Level 2 and received a mark of 5.

To develop the answer, it could explore the wider aims of economic stability and support for democracy in other countries, or the impact on the existing divisions between the allies. The answer explains that the Plan made the USSR suspicious and that war was a possible outcome; it could go on to explain how it drew Western countries together and exacerbated the rivalry between East and West, putting pressure on the USSR to offer similar support to the satellite states.

Answer G

Answer G is Level 3.

An analysis of importance is shown for AO2 with comments such as ‘relations ... were good’, ‘they were agreeing to help each other’, ‘this agreement strengthened East and West relations’.

For AO1 there is clear accurate and relevant information showing good knowledge and understanding with the correct names of the three leaders present at Yalta, discussions over Germany and the fight against Japan.