

Put a cross in the box ☒ indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 1 ☒ Question 2 ☒

Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒

(This page is for your first answer) Plan

Relations with Commonwealth, Nuclear Weapons
Influential, developed, modern

BUT

Not accepted into EEC

Economic Crises, TVs

Worsening relations with USA, dependency

Following the Second World War, Britain emerged victorious among the big five, and gained a Permanent Seat in the newly formed United Nations. In many respects, it ~~was~~ remained a powerful and largely influential country ~~then~~ during the 60s and throughout the rest of the 20th Century. This led ^{some} ~~many~~ historians to argue that Britain was a major world power in the years 1964-70. However, ~~the evidence of~~ there is also evidence to suggest otherwise, including financial crises, ~~the~~ militant trade unions, and increased dependence on ~~foreign~~ other countries, such as the USA.

In 1964, Britain still remained a world-class military power and a force to be reckoned with having bases ^{and troops} ~~bases~~ around the world, particularly 'East of Suez' in countries such as



(This page is for your first answer) ~~Borneo~~, Malaysia, ~~and~~ Singapore and the Persian Gulf. ~~Its extensive military~~ It also maintained good trade relations with ex-colonies such as Canada and Australia, to gain a flow of cheap food imports. Its ~~large~~ extensive military presence and strong links with the international community suggest that it was a major power at this time. Nevertheless, plans by Secretary of defence Denis Healey to cut the military budget and withdraw ^{by 1971} troops ~~due to~~ financial difficulties ~~and~~ such as a balance of payments deficit of £744 million in 1964 which got worse during the Seamen strike of May 1966, harming exports and the need for the money at home (in Britain) raise doubts about the extent to which Britain really was a world power. The fact that it had to undergo a 'retreat from the empire' and was defeated in the 1956 Suez Crisis, undermining its confidence as world police, possibly imply that it was not as major a power as it used to be. That being said, ~~the~~ Britain remained ~~armed~~ among the few countries armed with nuclear weapons throughout the decade, and in possession of the hydrogen bomb since 1958, backing the claim that it really was a world power.

~~Additional~~ ~~Another~~ More evidence for Britain's status as a major world power in 1964-70 can be found inside the country. ~~Finally~~ The country was democratic, had a welfare state to look after the well-being of its citizens, possessed some



(This page is for your first answer) of the most prestigious and famous universities in the world (eg. Oxford, Cambridge) and ~~Britain~~ its capital was a major economic, cultural and academic hub. Furthermore, reforms which were introduced ~~during~~ between 1964-70, mainly by home Secretary Roy Jenkins, allowing more individual freedom and the development of the Permissive Society, indicated that Britain was a developed, ~~an~~ established country with an advanced and accepting society, backing the argument that it was a Permissive Society. Changes to laws such as the 1967 Sexual Offences Act which legalised homosexual acts in private for those over the age of 21 and the Abortion Act of 1967 which ~~allowed~~ ^{legalised} abortion in a case where two doctors certify ^{risk of} physical and/or mental ~~damage~~ ^{damage} to the mother or baby, liberated women and minorities, adding to the notion that Britain had an outgoing and modern society, and was therefore a world power. Additionally, cultural developments such as the emergence of Pop and ~~Rock~~ ^{focus} ~~Pop~~ in the middle and lower class in TV and film were influential not only in Britain but also on the outside world. The Beatles, a band of British ~~young~~ men from Liverpool, became world-famous, and perhaps the most successful band in history. ~~The fact that British culture, music and film~~ (Sean Connery in James P. Likewise, ^{movies starring} ~~working~~ class actors such as Sean Connery as in James Bond ~~or~~ became popular around the world. The degree to which British culture impacted the rest of the world ~~in~~ suggests that it really was a major world power.



(This page is for your first answer) Nevertheless, Here are some arguments against the claim that Britain was a major World Power, such as the fact that it was rejected from entering the EEC twice before finally joining. The French leader De Gaulles vetoed Britain's entry in 1963 and again in 1967, asserting that it would be obstructive to the bloc, and famously saying "L'Angleterre, ~~ce n'est plus~~ ce n'est plus grande chose", or English "~~England~~ Britain is no longer a big thing". This demonstrates that Britain in the eyes of the international community, Britain wasn't a major World Power. Additionally, the fact that Britain needed help from other ^{European} countries to survive shows weakness, and is not common for a real World Power. Similarly, deterioration of Anglo-American relations, famously called "the special relationship" led to problems for Britain. Wilson's reluctance to condemn the Vietnam War, and his saying "we can't kick our creditors in the balls" shows how dependent the country was on foreign loans and aid. Such fear of upsetting an ally and other major power such as the USA, implied that Britain was dependent on other countries, and was not self-sufficient. Perhaps suggesting that it wasn't actually a World Power.

Constant ~~financial~~ financial and economic crises further ~~support~~ ^{support} ~~the~~ ^{the} counter the claim that Britain was a major World Power. A massive budget deficit of £800 million in 1964, militant trade unions causing a fall in productivity and inflation, and ~~a~~ repeating sterling crises



(This page is for your first answer) Would not usually be seen in a major World Power. The effect of the May 1966 Seamen Strike on exports and the balance of Payments which reached the highest deficit in October 1967, and the impact of the 1967 Arab-Israeli Six Day War ~~shared just how vulnerable~~ in raising oil prices and causing a devaluation of the pound from \$2.80 to \$2.40, shared how vulnerable and exposed Britain was to sudden & destabilising events. Furthermore, 600,000 unemployed in 1970 and ~~11 million days lost to strikes~~ ~~lead to the questioning of whether~~ to strikes indicate a lack of economic and political stability and effectiveness. This is not what one would expect from a major-world power and therefore lead to questioning of whether Britain really was one in 1964-70.

In conclusion, while there is much evidence to argue against the claim that Britain was a world power between 1964-70, it can be said that overall the statement is true. Despite the existence of economic instability and increased foreign reliance, Britain remained hugely influential and advanced in terms of its society, laws, and technology as well as political and military presence. Perhaps it was not as major a power as the United States or the Soviet Union, but it certainly was powerful, possessing nuclear weapons and good relations with many big countries.

