

8.8 World War II

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Second World War** 第二次世界大战.

You must be able to:

- explain the Axis powers' early success
- name the four Allied contributions
- state what military technologies made possible
- explain why the CED refuses a single decisive factor

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Early success

Germany's Blitzkrieg warfare in Europe, combined with Japan's attacks in Asia and the Pacific, brought the Axis powers early victories. Blitzkrieg is a **method** —speed and combined arms answering the trench stalemate of 8.2.

■ Four contributions

American and British industrial, scientific and technological power; cooperative military efforts under strong leadership such as Churchill's; the resistance of civilians; and the all-out military commitment of the USSR —all **contributed critically**.

■ What technology made possible

Military technologies made possible industrialised warfare, genocide, nuclear proliferation and the risk of global nuclear war. Two of the four belong to the decades after 1945.

■ No single factor

"Contributed critically" distributes the credit across four items. An answer keeping one has narrowed the CED's claim.

2 Practice

2.1 Explain what Blitzkrieg was and what problem it answered. [2]

2.2 Name the four Allied contributions. [2]

2.3 The CED lists four things military technologies made possible.

(a) Name them. [2]

(b) State which two reach past 1945. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 "Contributed critically" indicates that credit is [1]

- **A** given to one factor
- **B** distributed across the four
- **C** withheld
- **D** given to the USSR alone

3.2 Blitzkrieg is best described as [1]

- **A** a single weapon
- **B** a method of speed and combined arms
- **C** a treaty
- **D** a defensive line

3.3 A method wins the first year of a war and loses the fifth.

(a) State why. [1]

(b) Explain what this shows about industrial capacity.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **8.8 World War II** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **20th-Century Global Conflicts** section of the AP European History hand-out on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 a method of speed and combined arms answering the trench stalemate of the First World War.

2.2 industrial, scientific and technological power; cooperative military efforts under strong leadership; civilian resistance; the all-out commitment of the USSR.

2.3 (a) industrialised warfare; genocide; nuclear proliferation; the risk of global nuclear war. (b) nuclear proliferation; the risk of global nuclear war.

3.1 B. the adverb distributes the credit.

3.2 B. it is a method, not a device.

3.3 (a) a method can be studied and countered. (b) a factory cannot be out-thought, so sustained production decides a long war where tactics decide a short one.