

7.3 National Unification and Diplomatic Tensions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS unification 统一 • crimean war 克里米亚战争

- breakdown of the concert of europe 欧洲协调的瓦解
- nationalist tensions in the balkans 巴尔干
- complex system of alliances 联盟体系

Objective

Build the skills to explain **unification** 统一 and the alliance system.

You must be able to:

- explain what the Crimean War made possible
- name the methods behind Italian and German unification
- describe the alliance system before and after 1890
- explain how Balkan tensions drew in the powers

1 Worked examples

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

■ The opening

The Crimean War demonstrated Ottoman weakness and contributed to the breakdown of the Concert of Europe, **thereby creating the conditions** in which Italy and Germany could be unified after centuries of fragmentation.

■ Italy and Germany

Cavour's diplomatic strategies combined with Garibaldi's popular military campaigns unified Italy. Bismarck used Realpolitik — diplomacy, industrialised warfare, weaponry and the manipulation of democratic mechanisms — to unify Germany.

■ The alliances

After 1871 Bismarck attempted to maintain the balance through a complex system of alliances directed at isolating France; his dismissal in 1890 eventually led to a system of **mutually antagonistic** alliances and heightened tensions.

■ The Balkans

Nationalist tensions in the Balkans **drew** the Great Powers into a series of crises leading up to the First World War — the powers are described as pulled by a local situation.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the Crimean War made possible and how. [2]

2.2 Name the four instruments of Bismarck's Realpolitik. [2]

2.3 The alliance system changes after 1890.

(a) State what it was before. [1]

(b) State what it became. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Cavour's contribution to Italian unification was [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** military campaigns
 - B** diplomatic strategy
 - C** industrial production
 - D** naval blockade

3.2 The CED's verb for how Balkan tensions involved the Great Powers is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** invited
 - B** drew
 - C** repelled
 - D** ignored

3.3 A system of alliances aimed at one rival becomes a system of mutually antagonistic ones.

(a) State what changed. [1]

(b) Explain the consequence. [2]
