

Past-paper walk-through

The Cold War from 1945 to 1980 ■ 8.2

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 2 Q1
- 2024 Set 1 Q4

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

2025 Set 2 ■ Q1

It is presented here in a format optimized for teacher and student use in the classroom.

3 Source 1 “Conflict over economic issues was a critical cause of Soviet-American tensions [after the Second World War].... The key element of U.S. foreign policy after World War II was economic security, the reliance upon economic power to achieve strategic aims.... The Truman administration [responded during the Cold War] to what it saw as the long-term need of American business for an open worldwide economic environment. Washington officials recognized that foreign trade enhanced domestic prosperity and that U.S. corporations needed access to cheap overseas raw materials in order to remain competitive.... Rather than rely primarily upon private institutions, U.S. leaders were determined to make extensive use of governmental and multilateral agencies to reshape world commercial, monetary, and financial systems. America’s unrivalled economic power offered the most cost- effective means of securing political

Question 1

ends in the postwar period.” Source: Robert A. Pollard, historian, *Economic Security and the Origins of the Cold War, 1945– 1950*, published in 1985 Source 2 “[After the Second World War], leading American officials...worried mainly about the psychological appeal of [Soviet ideas] to frightened citizens of unstable countries.... In part because they worried about their security, the Soviets proceeded to oppress their eastern European neighbors and to threaten Western interests in the Mediterranean and Middle East.... [Americans] came to fear that the USSR was bent on even wider territorial expansion that would endanger the economic and political supremacy of the United States.... In these years it was the Soviet Union, more than the United States, whose behavior—especially in eastern Europe—seemed alarming in the world. Not just the United States but also other Western nations concluded that ‘appeasement’ would be disastrous. ‘Credibility’ required that they resist.” Source: James Patterson, historian, *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945–1974*, published in 1996

Question 1

Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- (a)** Briefly describe one major difference between Pollard's and Patterson's historical interpretations of the origins of the Cold War.
- (b)** Briefly explain how one event or development from 1940 to 1960 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Pollard's interpretation of the origins of the Cold War.
- (c)** Briefly explain how one event or development from 1940 to 1960 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Patterson's interpretation of the origins of the Cold War.

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- Briefly describe one major difference between Pollard's and Patterson's historical interpretations of the origins of the Cold War. (1 point) — accept any: Pollard argues that the origins of the Cold War were primarily rooted in economic differences while Patterson argues that the actions of the Soviet Union brought on the Cold War.; Source 1 argues that it was the actions of the United States that initiated the Cold War while Source 2 argues that it was the fear of communism.

Solution 1

(b) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain how one event or development from 1940 to 1960 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Pollard's interpretation of the origins of the Cold War. (1 point) — accept any: The United States attempted to create a free-market global economy, in the face of Communist ideology, and this supports Pollard's argument that economic concerns were a significant driver of the Cold War.; The United States began a campaign of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union in 1948, which supports Pollard's interpretation that the origins of the Cold War were primarily economic.; The United States international aid to noncommunist countries illustrates how the origins of the Cold War were primarily economic, which supports Pollard's interpretation.; The United States

Solution 1

creation of economic institutions to bolster non-Communist nations and prevent Soviet expansion supports Pollard's argument about the origins of the Cold War.; The United States used the Marshall Plan to connect European economies with the United States.

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain how one event or development from 1940 to 1960 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Patterson's interpretation of the origins of the Cold War. (1 point) — accept any: Patterson's argument is that concerns about the spread of communism contributed to the start of the Cold War, and the usage of controversial methods to expose suspected communists during the Second Red Scare supports this claim.; The focus of United States policymakers after 1945 on containing communism through the Truman Doctrine supports Patterson's argument that concerns about the spread of communism led to the start of the Cold War.; The United States justified intervening in Korea with the argument that it was preventing the territorial

Solution 1

expansion of communism, which supports Patterson's arguments about the United States' fears about communism's territorial expansion contributing to the Cold War.; The United States justified covert actions in countries to overthrow governments thought to be too close to the Soviet Union.

Question 4

2024 Set 1 ■ Q4

Respond to parts a, b, and c.

- (a)** Briefly describe one United States Cold War policy from 1945 to 1991.
- (b)** Briefly explain one similarity OR difference in how TWO groups in the United States responded to a Cold War policy from 1945 to 1991.
- (c)** Briefly explain how one specific historical development after 1980 contributed to the end of the Cold War.

Solution 4

(a)

Mark scheme

- Briefly describe one United States Cold War policy from 1945 to 1991. (1 point) — accept any: The main Cold War policy of the United States was containment.; The United States fought in the Vietnam War as part of the Cold War.; The United States fought a war in Korea as part of the Cold War.; The United States created collective security treaties like NATO.; During the Cold War, the United States often supported non-Communist regimes even if they were not democratic.

Solution 4

(b) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain one similarity OR difference in how TWO groups in the United States responded to a Cold War policy from 1945 to 1991. (1 point) — accept any: Young Americans protested the Vietnam War, while many in the government argued that the war had to be fought to contain communism.; Democratic and Republican administrations during the Cold War both used military power to try to prevent communism from spreading.; Environmentalists criticized the development of nuclear weapons as dangerous, while political officials argued that a nuclear stockpile was necessary to deter the Soviet Union.; Conservatives generally argued that high defense spending during the Cold War was necessary, while liberals sometimes argued that money spent on national defense would be

Solution 4

better spent on social programs.; Youth activists and Civil Rights advocates argued in favor of supporting decolonization movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America rather than containment.

Solution 4

(c) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain how one specific historical development after 1980 contributed to the end of the Cold War. (1 point) — accept any: During Ronald Reagan's presidency there was an increased U.S. military spending which was important in ending the Cold War because the Soviet Union could not keep up.; The United States supplied resistance movements in Afghanistan as a way of weakening the Soviet Union in its war there.; During Ronald Reagan's presidency he used diplomatic initiatives to weaken the Soviet Union, which was important in ending the Cold War.; Economic problems in Eastern Europe led to political instability that was important in ending the Cold War.; The fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the inability of the Soviet Union to maintain control over its spheres of influence.;

Solution 4

Political problems in the Soviet Union weakened the country and contributed to the end of the Cold War.