2.4 Paper 2: the Cold War, origins and crises, 1945–1962

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS Cold War • containment • arms race • proxy war • orthodox view • revisionist view • post-revisionist view

Objective

Build the Paper 2 skills for **the Cold War**, 1945–1962: why the wartime alliance broke down, the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan, Berlin, Korea and Cuba, the **arms race**, and the historians' debate on who was responsible.

You must be able to:

- explain why the wartime alliance broke down, 1945–1947
- explain the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan and Soviet responses
- explain the causes and results of the Berlin Blockade, the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis
- compare orthodox, revisionist and post-revisionist views
- write an essay on the origins of the Cold War

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1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Timeline

date	event
Feb 1945	Yalta Conference: free elections promised in Eastern Europe
Jul–Aug 1945	Potsdam Conference; atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Mar 1946	Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech
Mar 1947	the Truman Doctrine: support for "free peoples" against outside pressure (**containment**)
1948	the Marshall Plan begins: about US$13 billion to rebuild Western Europe \lvert
Jun 1948 – May 1949	the Berlin Blockade and airlift
Apr 1949	NATO founded; Aug 1949 the first Soviet atomic bomb; Oct 1949 the People's Republic of China
1950–53	the Korean War
1955	the Warsaw Pact
Aug 1961	the Berlin Wall
Oct 1962	the Cuban Missile Crisis: 13 days close to nuclear war

The rivals never fought each other directly; they competed through alliances, the arms race and **proxy wars**.

Who was responsible?

view	argument
orthodox (1940s–50s)	Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe forced the US to respond
revisionist (1960s–70s)	US economic interests (open markets, the Marshall Plan) and the atomic bomb threatened the USSR
post-revisionist (from the 1970s)	fear, misunderstanding and security needs on both sides

Worked judgement. "Both sides acted from fear for their security, but Stalin's control of Eastern Europe after 1945 made the first move that turned rivalry into Cold War."

2 Practice

2.1 Define a **proxy war**, and give **one** example from the Cold War. [2]

2.2 President Truman called the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan "two halves of the same walnut". Explain what he meant. [3]



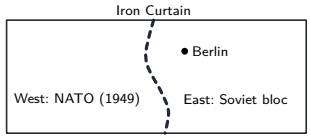
2.3 Explain **two** reasons why Stalin began the Berlin Blockade in June 1948. [4]

2.4 Compare the **orthodox**, **revisionist** and **post-revisionist** views on the origins of the Cold War, and explain **one** reason why historians' views changed over time. [6]

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3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* Evaluate the reasons for the outbreak of the Cold War, 1945–1949. [15]



Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

a war in which the superpowers support opposite sides instead of fighting each other directly; e.g. the Korean War (1950–53) / the Vietnam War / the Soviet war in Afghanistan

2.2

the Truman Doctrine (1947) promised political and military support to countries resisting communism; the Marshall Plan gave economic aid (about US$13 billion) so that poverty would not make communism attractive; both aimed at the same goal: containment of Soviet influence in Europe

2.3

any two, explained: the Western powers introduced a new currency, the Deutschmark, in their zones, which Stalin saw as a step to a separate West German state; the Western zones were being joined, threatening Soviet influence over Germany; Stalin wanted to force the West out of Berlin, which lay deep inside the Soviet zone; Soviet fear of a strong, rebuilt Germany allied to the US

2.4

orthodox: Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe caused the Cold War; the US only responded; revisionist: US economic aims, the Marshall Plan and the atomic bomb threatened the USSR; post-revisionist: fear and misunderstanding on both sides; shared responsibility; comparison: the views differ on who started it, but all see Europe after 1945 as the centre; reason for change: new events, e.g. the Vietnam War made some historians critical of US policy; new sources, e.g. Soviet archives opened after 1991

3.1

Mark with the markbands: [13-15] clearly focused on the question, accurate and relevant knowledge used as evidence, well-developed critical analysis, different perspectives evaluated, a reasoned conclusion; [10-12] focused, mostly accurate knowledge, analysis with some evaluation; [7-9] some focus, relevant knowledge, mostly narrative or description with limited analysis; [4-6] little focus, limited knowledge, mostly narrative; [1-3] little understanding of the question. Points that may be included: ideology: capitalism against communism; mutual suspicion from 1917; Soviet control of Eastern Europe: promised free elections at Yalta, but communist governments by 1948, e.g. Poland, Czechoslovakia (1948); US policy: the Truman Doctrine (1947) and Marshall Plan (1948) seen in Moscow as economic imperialism; the atomic bomb (1945) increased Soviet fear; Germany: disagreement over its future; the Berlin Blockade (1948–49) and the creation of two German states (1949); NATO (1949) made the division military; historians: orthodox, revisionist and post-revisionist views; new evidence from Soviet archives since 1991 suggests Stalin was cautious but determined to keep Eastern Europe; interaction: each side's defensive moves looked aggressive to the other; conclusion: a judgement on the most important reason, e.g. the clash over Eastern Europe and Germany, made worse by mutual fear

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