2.5 Paper 2: the Cold War, détente and the end, 1962–1991

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

KEY WORDS détente • glasnost • perestroika • arms control

Objective

Build the Paper 2 skills for the later **Cold War**, 1962–1991: **détente** and arms control, crises in Czechoslovakia, Vietnam and Afghanistan, the "second Cold War" of the early 1980s, and why the Cold War ended.

You must be able to:

- explain the reasons for détente and its main agreements
- explain why détente broke down at the end of the 1970s
- explain the role of Gorbachev, Reagan, the Soviet economy and Eastern European peoples in the end of the Cold War
- use precise dates and agreements as evidence
- write an essay that weighs several causes of the end of the Cold War

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Détente and its end

date	event
1963	the "hotline" between Washington and Moscow; the Partial Test Ban Treaty
1968	the Non-Proliferation Treaty; the Prague Spring crushed by Warsaw Pact troops (the Brezhnev Doctrine)
1972	SALT I limits nuclear weapons; Nixon visits China
1975	the Helsinki Accords: borders accepted, human rights promised
Dec 1979	the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; détente ends
1983	Reagan calls the USSR an "evil empire"; the Strategic Defense Initiative ("Star Wars")

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Reasons for détente: the Cuban Missile Crisis showed the danger; the cost of the arms race; the US in Vietnam; the Sino-Soviet split. It ended because of Afghanistan, new Soviet missiles in Europe and Reagan's hard line.

The end

date	event
1985	Mikhail Gorbachev comes to power: *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring)
1987	the INF Treaty: a whole class of nuclear missiles removed
1989	Soviet troops leave Afghanistan; revolutions in Eastern Europe; the Berlin Wall falls (9 November)
3 Oct 1990	Germany reunified
26 Dec 1991	the Soviet Union ends

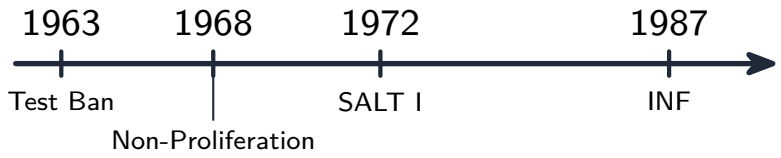
Causes historians weigh: the weak Soviet economy and the cost of defence; Gorbachev's reforms and his choice not to use force in Eastern Europe (the "Sinatra Doctrine"); Reagan's pressure (spending, SDI) and later his talks with Gorbachev; people power in Poland (Solidarity), East Germany and elsewhere.

Worked paragraph start. "Gorbachev's decision not to send troops into Eastern Europe in 1989 was decisive, because the regimes there had depended on Soviet force since 1956 and 1968."

2 Practice

2.1 Define **détente**, and give **one** example. [2]

2.2 Arms agreements were signed in 1963, 1968, 1972 and 1987. Explain why the INF Treaty (1987) was different from the earlier agreements. [3]



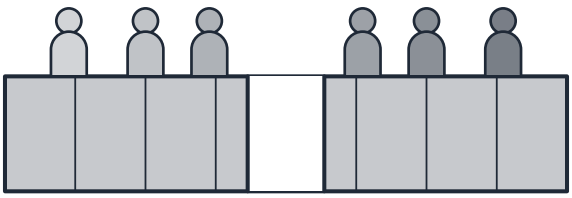
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2.3 Explain **two** reasons why détente broke down at the end of the 1970s. [4]

2.4 "The Soviet economy, not Western pressure, ended the Cold War." Write a short argument (one paragraph for, one against) with evidence. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* To what extent was the end of the Cold War due to the policies of Mikhail Gorbachev? [15]



9 November 1989

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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 period of reduced tension between the superpowers, from the late 1960s to the late 1970s; e.g. SALT I (1972) / the Helsinki Accords (1975) / the hotline (1963)

2.2

earlier agreements limited tests, the spread of weapons or the growth in numbers; the INF Treaty removed a whole class of weapons: intermediate-range nuclear missiles; it showed new trust between Gorbachev and Reagan, with on-site checks

2.3

any two, explained: the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (December 1979) made the US see Soviet expansion; Carter stopped grain sales and boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics; new Soviet SS-20 missiles in Europe led NATO to place new missiles too; Reagan (from 1981) took a hard line, raising defence spending and calling the USSR an "evil empire"; Soviet support for revolutions in Africa worried the US

2.4

for: the Soviet economy grew slowly in the 1970s and 1980s and could not afford high defence spending; falling oil prices in the 1980s cut Soviet income; Gorbachev's reforms were a response to economic crisis; against: Reagan's spending and SDI raised the cost of competing; Gorbachev's own choices, e.g. not using force in 1989, were not forced by the economy alone; people power in Eastern Europe, e.g. Solidarity in Poland

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: Gorbachev's policies: glasnost and perestroika (from 1985–86) opened debate and weakened the party's control; arms control: the INF Treaty (1987) and better relations with Reagan; withdrawal from Afghanistan (1989); the choice not to use force in Eastern Europe in 1989 ("Sinatra Doctrine"), unlike 1956 and 1968; other factors: long-term weakness of the Soviet economy and the high cost of defence; Reagan's pressure: higher defence spending and SDI; people power: Solidarity in Poland, mass protests in East Germany; the Wall fell on 9 November 1989; nationalism inside the USSR, e.g. the Baltic states; interaction: Gorbachev's reforms were meant to save the system, but they released forces he could not control; conclusion: a clear judgement, e.g. Gorbachev was the most important individual, but the economic crisis made change necessary and the people of Eastern Europe made it happen

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