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]

