



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2012

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## History

Unit 2: The Cold War 1945–1991

Foundation Tier

[GHY21]

TUESDAY 12 JUNE, AFTERNOON

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**MARK  
SCHEME**

## Foundation Tier

## Mark Scheme

The detail given in the Mark Scheme is for **teacher guidance** and candidates are not expected to cover **every** point suggested.

## Section A

## 1 The Vietnam War: Challenges to the USA.

## (a) Study Source A

Give **two** points from **Source A** to show the views of the US soldier on the North Vietnamese and Vietcong.

**Target AO3:** Understand a range of source material as part of an historical enquiry.

**Level 1 ([0])**

No rewardable material.

**Level 2 ([1])**

Limited accurate reference to Source A.

**Level 3 ([2])**

Accurate reference to Source A.

Apply criteria for two reasons

Any **two** views:

- he thought that the North Vietnamese and Vietcong were too clever for the Americans
- they were very determined and this helped them to win the war
- they would not give up
- they could make the Americans beat themselves.

Any other valid point

[4]

## (b) Study Source B

Give **three** reasons from this source to explain why the USA lost the war in Vietnam.

**Target AO3:** Understand a range of source material as part of an historical enquiry.

**Level 1 ([0]–[2])**

Identifies **one** valid reason for the US defeat with contextual illustration from Source B.

**Level 2 ([3]–[4])**

Identifies **two** valid reasons for the US defeat with contextual illustration from Source B.

**Level 3 ([5]–[6])**

Identifies **three** valid reasons for the US defeat with contextual illustration from Source B.

Any **three** reasons:

- the USA backed a government with very little popular support in South Vietnam
- their South Vietnamese ally was weak
- they faced a very strong enemy
- the Vietcong was highly-trained, fiercely determined and well armed
- had beaten foreign invaders before, were determined to defeat the USA as well.

Any other valid point

[6]

**(c) Study Source C**

How reliable is **Source C** for an historian studying the attitudes of the people of Vietnam to the war?

**Target AO3:** Understand, analyse and evaluate a range of source material as part of an historical enquiry.

Award [0] for responses not worthy of credit

**Level 1 ([1]–[3])**

A limited response which may only focus on the content of Source C. Little attempt will be made to address issues of reliability of the source.

**Level 2 ([4]–[6])**

Answers will begin to discuss the reliability of Source C. They may refer to content of the source explaining that its author, General Giap, is the military commander of the North Vietnamese Army. He played a leading role in the war against the USA and so would be in a good position to give us an accurate and reliable account of the determination of the army and people of North Vietnam. Candidates will refer to the content of the source here, describing Giap's opinion that the "US invaders have met a people's war." However, he gives the view of the North Vietnamese only. He cannot speak for those who support the government and army of the South. Answers at this level may show some awareness of bias in General Giap's account.

**Level 3 ([7]–[8])**

Answers at this level will discuss the key issues of reliability of Source C in greater detail with close reference to the content of the source and may use some own knowledge.

Candidates should make some of the following points:

- **date** of the source – Giap is speaking in 1967 while the war is still going on. Therefore he can give only a limited account. There was still support for the Americans from supporters of the government and army of South Vietnam. Giap ignores this
- **motivation** – Giap may be trying to make an impact on the US soldiers by saying that the people will fight their attackers “for as long as it takes to win.” Candidates could make the point that this attitude was widespread among those who supported Ho Chi Minh and the Vietcong, so Giap’s account is reliable
- **author** – as the commander of the North Vietnamese Army General Giap will give a very one-sided account of events which may not tell the whole story. Candidates may make reference to bias
- candidates may reach the conclusion that the reliability of this source is limited.

Any other valid point

[8]

- (d) Using **Sources A, B and C** and **your own knowledge**, explain why there are different views about the reasons why the USA lost the war in Vietnam.

**Target AO3:** Comprehend, analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, how and why historical events, people, situations and changes have been interpreted and represented in different ways.

Award [0] for responses not worthy of credit

**Level 1 ([1]–[3])**

At this level response may be limited and at the lower end may not address the question. Answers may describe the view given in one of the sources (AO3) but show little awareness of interpretation. At the top end of this level candidates may describe the view given in one of the sources. Alternatively candidates may make little reference to the sources and use limited own knowledge to give a weak general response. (AO2) Responses of this nature should be restricted to marks within the lower half of the level.

**Level 2 ([4]–[7])**

Answers at this level will show understanding of the different views given in at least two of the sources. At the upper end of this level they may display some awareness of the reasons for different views about the reasons why the USA lost the war in Vietnam. (AO3) Answers may use some outside knowledge to support their answer. (AO2) Responses of this nature can access the top end of this level.

**Level 3 ([8]–[10])**

Answers at this level will show a clear understanding of the different viewpoints in the three sources and some awareness of the reasons for these. (AO3) Candidates at the top end of this level will make some use of their contextual knowledge to support their answers. (AO2)

Candidates should make some of the following points:

- these sources come from three different authors. They each have their own views about the reasons why the USA lost the war in Vietnam
- **Source A** is the view of a US soldier who fought in Vietnam. He describes the strong determination of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong and says that they “would not give up”. He believes that this was the main reason why the USA lost the war. He also mentions the Tet Offensive. Although it was a military defeat for the North Vietnamese and Vietcong, it convinced many in the USA that they could not win the war in Vietnam. Candidates may use some of their own knowledge to develop and explain the views in this source
- **Source B** is the view of a modern historian. He offers a range of reasons; the USA used the wrong tactics; they backed a corrupt government with little popular support in South Vietnam; they faced a determined and highly motivated enemy which had defeated foreign invaders in the past. Candidates may use some of their own knowledge to develop and explain the views in this source
- **Source C** is the view of the military commander of the North Vietnamese Army, General Giap. Giap says that the USA faced a “people’s war” in Vietnam. The North Vietnamese would “fight their attackers in all ways and with all kinds of weapons... as long as it takes to win”. Candidates may use some of their own knowledge to develop and explain the views in this source.

Candidates can achieve top marks in this level if they use the sources and **some** own knowledge to try to reach a conclusion which directly addresses the question. Answers must be based on the sources with own knowledge used to support answer/analysis.

Any other valid point [10]

**Section A**

28

28

## Section B

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

**2 This question is about the relations between the USA, USSR and Cuba, 1959–1962.**

Explain how and why relations between the USA, the USSR and Cuba changed between 1959 and the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962.

Use the following paragraph headings to help you with your answer.

- (a) Worsening relations between Cuba and the USA, 1959 to October 1962
- (b) Improving relations between Cuba and the USSR, 1959 to October 1962
- (c) The Thirteen Days in October 1962 and how the crisis ended.

**Target AO1 and AO2:** Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of history and demonstrate understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of key concepts and key features and characteristics of the periods studied.

Award [0] for responses not worthy of credit

**Level 1 ([1]–[7])**

Answers at this level may only use one of the paragraph headings and may fail to address the question, offering only a descriptive narrative which will contain inaccuracies. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with limited accuracy.

**Level 2 ([8]–[15])**

Answers will use at least two of the paragraph headings, perhaps missing out only one, and offer a more informed explanation and analysis of the question. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with some accuracy.

**Level 3 ([16]–[22])**

Answers will use all of the paragraph headings and will provide a clear explanation and analysis of how and why relations between the USA, the USSR and Cuba changed between 1959 and 1962. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with consistent accuracy.

### **Worsening relations between Cuba and the USA, 1959 to October 1962**

- Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean was situated only 100 miles from Florida in the southern USA. American corporations owned most of the businesses, banks and fruit plantations. The USA owned a large naval base at Guantanamo Bay. The overthrow of the pro-American dictator General Batista in 1959 led to a change in relations. The new leader Fidel Castro nationalised industries and banks thereby hurting US banking and business interests
- from 1959 to 1961 the USA's relations with Cuba deteriorated. In 1961 Castro announced that Cuba was a communist country. This alarmed the USA which broke off diplomatic relations. In 1960 President Eisenhower had refused to meet Castro when he visited New York to address the United Nations Organisation
- the USA cut off all trade links with Cuba. Almost all Cuba's exports went to the USA. Cuba was economically-dependent on the USA. Castro turned to the USSR and Eastern Europe for trade. By 1962 over 80% of Cuba's trade was with the USSR. Cuba exported sugar, fruit and tobacco and imported oil and machinery, e.g. tractors from the USSR
- President Kennedy was not prepared to tolerate the existence of a Russian satellite so close. In April 1961 the CIA and 1400 Cuban exiles organised an invasion to overthrow Castro. The Bay of Pigs invasion was a failure. The Cuban people did not support the invasion as hoped. All the rebels were captured or killed. This failed invasion embarrassed Kennedy and the USA and made Castro a hero in Cuba
- the CIA was also behind attempts to assassinate Castro. Castro asked the USSR to protect Cuba from US attacks. In May 1962 the USSR agreed to supply Castro with weapons to protect Cuba from a future US invasion. Thousands of guns, patrol boats, tanks and jet fighters made the Cuban army the best equipped in Latin America
- the USA had a lead in the number of long range missiles and had installed nuclear weapons in Turkey which posed a threat to the USSR. Khrushchev saw this as an opportunity to balance the nuclear missile deficit. The USSR also sent technicians to secretly build silos, missile erectors and install short and medium-range nuclear weapons. The USA was unaware that nuclear weapons were being installed. The Americans did not know that 43 000 Russian soldiers and military advisers were already in Cuba. Most of the USA was in range of Russian nuclear missiles. This would restore balance in the nuclear arms race.

### **Improving relations between Cuba and the USSR, 1959 to October 1962**

- between 1959 and 1962 relations between Cuba and the USSR became close. Castro turned to the USSR when the USA refused to trade with Cuba. By 1962, over 80% of Cuba's trade was with the USSR and Eastern Europe. The USSR gave Cuba credit, machinery and oil in return for sugar and tobacco
- after the Bay of Pigs in April 1961 and other US sponsored attempts to assassinate him, Castro turned to the USSR for protection. A pro-USSR government in Cuba therefore provided an opportunity for the USSR to have a supporter close to the USA
- Castro asked Khrushchev, leader of the USSR for military assistance. In summer 1962, over 40 000 Russian soldiers and weapons were sent to Cuba. In September 1962, 43 short and medium range nuclear missiles were secretly sent to Cuba by ship. Nuclear missile bases were built, ready to launch missiles at anyone invading Cuba. The USA was unaware that Russian nuclear missiles were being installed in Cuba
- missile bases in Cuba were a major strategic help to the USSR in the Cold War. Cuba was only 90 miles from the USA. The USSR was falling behind the USA in the production of long range missiles in the nuclear arms race. For the USSR, short and medium missiles in Cuba restored the balance in the nuclear arms race. The USA had installed nuclear missiles in Turkey which was close to the USSR; now the USSR had missiles close to the USA.

### **The Thirteen Days in October 1962 and how the crisis ended**

- the Cuban Missile crisis lasted from 14 to 28 October 1962, a period known as "The Thirteen Days". On 14 October 1962 an American U2 spy plane took photographs of missile sites in Cuba. Some were supplied with missiles and could be ready to launch. At the same time 18 Russian ships carrying parts for nuclear missiles were sailing towards Cuba
- President Kennedy set up EXCOMM, a small group of military and political advisers to deal with the crisis. Some members wanted an invasion of Cuba, unaware of the full extent of the Russian military presence on the island. Kennedy rejected advice from members of EXCOMM to invade. Kennedy decided to set up a naval blockade of Cuba to prevent the Russian ships landing. This avoided direct confrontation and put the pressure on the USSR to withdraw or attack. The shooting down of an American U2 spy plane over Cuba on 26 October could have triggered a nuclear war but this was not disclosed to the American public
- an exchange of telegrams between Kennedy and Khrushchev on 26 and 27 October allowed the possibility of compromise and a move away from the abyss of a nuclear war. The USSR promised to withdraw its ships and remove its nuclear weapons from Cuba if the USA promised not to invade Cuba and allow it to remain communist



- a second telegram then arrived, demanding the removal of American Jupiter missiles from Turkey. Kennedy replied only to the first telegram, accepting Khrushchev's offer. Kennedy secretly agreed to remove the US missiles from Turkey
- Khrushchev agreed and on 28 October the crisis ended. The Russian ships turned around and sailed back to the USSR
- Russian missiles in Cuba were dismantled and the US kept its promise to remove the Jupiter missiles from Turkey.

Any other valid point

Some of the detail above may be included in Level 2.

[22]

22

**3 This question is about the Korean War, 1950–1953.**

Explain why the USA became involved in a war in Korea in 1950 and how the Korean War affected Korea, the USA and China.

Use the following paragraph headings to help you with your answer.

- (a) Reasons for involvement of the USA in the Korean War
- (b) Actions of the USA and China in Korea, 1950–1953
- (c) Effects of the war on Korea, the USA and China.

**Target AO1 and AO2:** Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of history and demonstrate understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of key concepts and key features and characteristics of the periods studied.

Award [0] for responses not worthy of credit

**Level 1 ([1]–[7])**

Answers at this level may only use one of the paragraph headings and may fail to address the question, offering only a descriptive narrative which will contain inaccuracies. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with limited accuracy.

**Level 2 ([8]–[15])**

Answers will use at least two of the paragraph headings, perhaps missing out only one, and offer a more informed explanation and analysis of the question. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with some accuracy.

**Level 3 ([16]–[22])**

Answers will use all of the paragraph headings and will provide a clear explanation and analysis of why the USA became involved in the Korean War and how the Korean War affected relations between the USA and China. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with consistent accuracy.

**Reasons for involvement of the USA in the Korean War**

- the Truman Doctrine widened the USA's commitment to contain the spread of communism. The USA would help any country resisting "armed minorities or outside pressures"
- the loss of China to communism in 1949 with the victory of Mao Zedong in the Chinese civil war was a blow for the USA. In 1949 the USSR developed an atom bomb and in 1950 the communist USSR and China signed a Treaty of Friendship

- Senator Joseph McCarthy led a campaign in the USA accusing Truman of being lenient on communism. This put pressure on Truman to act decisively against the spread of communism in Asia
- Cold War tensions shifted to Asia. Many Americans believed in the Domino Theory and feared that all countries in Asia were in danger from communism. General MacArthur stated that “Asia is where the communists have elected to make their play for world domination”
- in 1948 Korea was divided along the 38th parallel. North Korea was ruled by Kim Il Sung, a communist and South Korea was ruled by Syngman Rhee who was supported by the USA. American and Russian troops left but both Korean leaders wanted to reunite all of Korea under their system of government. Between 1948 and 1950 thousands of Koreans were killed in clashes between North and South Korea
- in June 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea and by September the South Korean army retreated to a small area in the south called the Pusan Pocket. Truman believed that Stalin had ordered Kim Il Sung to invade South Korea. The USA became involved in the Korean War because the Truman Doctrine had committed the USA to contain the spread of communism. The USA also entered the war because it feared that this invasion was part of a Russian and Chinese plan to make Asia communist.

#### **Actions of the USA and China in Korea, 1950–1953**

- Truman persuaded the United Nations to become involved in saving South Korea from communism. The USSR was boycotting the United Nations in 1950 over the refusal of the USA to recognise Communist China. It was unable to veto the UN’s direct involvement
- the Korean War became a flash point in the Cold War. A United Nations army was sent to Korea. Sixteen countries contributed but over 90% of the 300 000 soldiers sent to Korea were American. The army was led by General MacArthur who was responsible to President Truman
- in September 1950 the UN army landed at Inchon and quickly surrounded and outmanoeuvred the North Korean army which hastily retreated behind the 38th Parallel
- General MacArthur was keen to extend the objectives of the USA’s role and attack Communist China and restore Chiang Kai Shek to power in China. President Truman was persuaded to invade North Korea in order to achieve the more ambitious target of “Roll Back”. The UN/US army captured Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea and marched towards the Yalu river and the border with Communist China
- Mao Zedong did not want war with the USA but was determined to resist a US invasion

- on 25 October 1950, over 250 000 Chinese troops called “volunteers” moved into North Korea, and pushed the UN/US army back into South Korea. Chinese troops recaptured its capital Seoul
- Truman sacked MacArthur who wanted a nuclear war against China
- under its new commander, General Ridgeway, the UN/USA army pushed the Chinese army back to the 38th Parallel
- there was stalemate in the war after April 1951. US and Chinese air planes fought for control of the skies.

### **Effects of the war on Korea, the USA and China**

- as many as three million Koreans, North and South, died in the war
- whole areas of the country were devastated as a result of the use of weapons such as napalm and flame throwers. This included millions of homes
- the relationship between North and South Korea remained tense and bitter
- over 54 000 Americans were killed in the Korean War and 100 000 wounded
- the USA saved South Korea at a cost. The US government was forced to triple its spending on the military and the nuclear arms race developed
- the USA also widened its involvement in the area, establishing military alliances to protect non-communist countries, e.g. SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organisation)
- China lost an estimated 400 000 in the war. China did succeed in securing its position and the USA would not try again to “Roll Back” communism in Asia
- China had saved North Korea from “Roll Back” and increased its reputation as a leading communist power in Asia. North Korea remained Communist which gave China protection from the USA.

Any other valid point

Some of the detail above may be included in Level 2.

[22]

22

**4 This question is about the Cold War in Europe, 1948–1961.**

Explain why the USSR faced challenges to its control over Eastern Europe and how the USSR dealt with challenges to its control between 1948 and 1961.

Use the following paragraph headings to help you with your answer.

- (a) Discontent in Berlin and the response of the USSR, 1948–1949
- (b) Discontent in Hungary and the response of the USSR, 1956
- (c) Discontent in Berlin and the response of the USSR, 1961.

**Target AO1 and AO2:** Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of history and demonstrate understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of key concepts and key features and characteristics of the periods studied.

Award [0] for responses not worthy of credit

**Level 1 ([1]–[7])**

Answers at this level may only use one of the paragraph headings and may fail to address the question, offering only a descriptive narrative which will contain inaccuracies. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with limited accuracy.

**Level 2 ([8]–[15])**

Answers will use at least two of the paragraph headings, perhaps missing out only one, and offer a more informed explanation and analysis of the question. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with some accuracy.

**Level 3 ([16]–[22])**

Answers will use all of the paragraph headings and will provide a clear explanation and analysis of why the USSR faced challenges to its control over Eastern Europe and how it dealt with challenges to its control between 1948 and 1961. Spelling, punctuation and the rules of grammar are used with consistent accuracy.

**Discontent in Berlin and the response of the USSR, 1948–1949**

- in 1947 the USA followed the Truman Doctrine, a policy to contain or prevent the spread of communism in Europe. Through the Marshall Plan the USA gave \$15 billion to help Europe recover from World War Two and make Communism less attractive. Stalin prevented the states of Eastern Europe from accepting Marshall Aid
- at Yalta and Potsdam in 1945 a compromise was made between the Allies to divide up Germany into four zones with the capital Berlin, 100 miles inside the Russian zone divided into four sectors. By 1948 as the Cold War developed and the Iron Curtain symbolised a divided Europe, the city of Berlin became a source of tension between the USSR and the West

- the USSR resented the West's attempts to combine their zones in Germany and use a common currency there. Stalin also resented the impact that the Marshall Plan had on living standards in the Western sectors of Berlin. He was keen to gain all of the city of Berlin, 100 miles inside the Russian zone. He was determined to close this hole in the Iron Curtain. From June 1948 to May 1949 Stalin blocked all supply lines from the western zones to West Berlin
- the result was the Berlin Airlift. The USA regarded this as a challenge to the Truman Doctrine and Containment. Stalin was unwilling to challenge the Airlift as the USSR had not yet developed an atom bomb. The success of the Berlin Airlift showed the USA's determination not to give up West Berlin and prevent the spread of Russian control in Eastern Europe
- in April 1949 before the Airlift ended, the Allies set up NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), a defensive alliance of western states under the leadership of the USA. In May 1949 the Allies set up a new state, West Germany. In October 1949, Stalin responded by establishing Communist East Germany.

#### **Discontent in Hungary and the response of the USSR, 1956**

- in 1953 Stalin died and by 1955 Khrushchev emerged as leader of the USSR. In 1956 Khrushchev denounced Stalin as a tyrant in his secret speech. Khrushchev, however, was determined to maintain Russian control over Eastern Europe as a buffer zone. In 1955 the Warsaw Pact, a military alliance of the USSR and the countries of Eastern Europe was established
- however, opposition groups in Eastern Europe saw Khrushchev as easier to deal with. In Poland protests in the summer of 1956 led to the appointment of a new more popular Communist leader, Gomulka. Khrushchev allowed Gomulka to introduce some reforms in Poland
- popular unrest spread to Hungary. In October 1956 there were protests by students and workers, speeches attacking the USSR, Stalin's statue was removed and there were attacks on the hated secret police. Khrushchev ordered the removal of the ruthless Stalinist Rakosi as leader of Hungary. On 28 October 1956, a new government led by Imre Nagy took control. Nagy's government wanted social and economic reform and the withdrawal of the Russian army. It made more radical demands, especially to leave the Warsaw Pact and make Hungary a neutral country in the Cold War
- Khrushchev viewed this as a threat to the security of the USSR. On 4 November 1956 thousands of Russian soldiers and tanks moved into Budapest. They met fierce resistance. In two weeks of bitter fighting over 10 000 were killed. 200 000 Hungarians fled across the border to Austria to escape Communist control. Nagy was captured and executed. The West protested but offered no military help to the Hungarian rebels. A new leader, Kadar, introduced some reforms but Hungary remained behind the Iron Curtain.

**Discontent in Berlin and the response of the USSR, 1961**

- West Berlin continued to be a threat to Russian control over East Germany and East Berlin. During the 1950s free movement was permitted between the four sectors and about two million, mainly young skilled workers left East Germany through West Berlin. They were attracted by the political freedom and better standard of living available in “the Golden West”
- the East German government feared that this exodus of mainly educated young people would undermine Communist control in East Germany. Khrushchev tried unsuccessfully to persuade President Kennedy to compromise and allow Russian control of all of Berlin
- on 13 August 1961 Khrushchev ordered the East German government to build a wall in order to seal off East Berlin from the three western sectors. The Berlin Wall, eventually 110 kilometres long, sealed off West Berlin and ended all free movement from East to West. The Berlin Wall became a concrete symbol of the Cold War and showed the lengths to which the USSR would go to maintain control
- the Berlin Wall was patrolled by East German guards and hundreds of people were shot trying to escape. The USSR had succeeded in preventing further loss of population but the Wall became a symbol of the division of Communism and Democracy at the heart of the Cold War. The numbers escaping to the West through West Berlin dwindled to a trickle after 1961
- the West condemned the building of the wall as a desperate attempt by the USSR to keep the people of Eastern Europe behind the Iron Curtain by force. The USSR justified building it as a way of preventing spies from the West destabilising Communism in East Berlin.

Any other valid point

Some of detail above may be included in Level 2. [22]

**Section B**

**Total**

	22
<b>Section B</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>