GRADE 12 EXAMINATION

SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: HOW DID THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONTRIBUTE TO COLD WAR TENSIONS IN CUBA IN THE 1960s?

1.1 Use Source 1A.

SOURCE 1A

The source below focuses on why Cuba and the Soviet Union became allies in the early 1960s.

When Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba, his relations with the United States of America got worse. Castro was not a communist but became close to Nikita Khrushchev (leader of the Soviet Union) because of his support and friendship. Later diplomatic and commercial relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union were established. Castro nationalised all banks and US-owned companies and refused to pay compensation.

The USA responded by cutting off all diplomatic and commercial ties with Cuba in 1961. Castro responded by announcing that Cuba was now implementing communism as a political ideology. The US government reacted by imposing a trade embargo on all Cuban goods. This meant that Cuba did not have a market for its sugar and tobacco produce. This forced Cuba to sell its produce to the Soviet Union and in return Cuba purchased oil and weapons from the Soviet Union ...

Khrushchev and the Soviets couldn't have asked for a better-located ally (friend) against the United States of America (USA). The Americans had allies all over the Eastern Hemisphere surrounding the USSR. The USA had a huge number of military forces in Europe near Soviet borders ... It was well known that the United States had nuclear missiles in Turkey which were pointed at the Soviet Union.

By the time John F Kennedy became president at the beginning of 1961, the Americans were already working on ways to get rid of Castro ... This plan ended in disaster with the failed battle at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961. Castro and his army quickly defeated the US sponsored rebels and the failure was a huge embarrassment for Kennedy's administration ... This helped to solidify (strengthen) Castro's alliance with the Soviet Union.

[From *The Cuban Missile Crisis – To the Brink of War* by Paul J Byrne]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.1.1 Why, according to the source, did Castro have a close relationship with Khrushchev? (1 x 2) (2)

1.1.2 Define the concept *communism* in your own words. (1 x 2) (2)

1.1.3 Explain what is implied by the statement, 'Khrushchev and the Soviets couldn't have asked for a better-located ally (friend) against the United States of America (USA)', in the context of the Cuban Missile Crisis. (2 x 2) (4)

1.1.4 What, according to the source, was the outcome of the battle at the Bay of Pigs for the following countries:

(a) The USA (1 x 1) (1)

(b) Cuba (1 x 1) (1)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SOURCE 1B

This source is part of a statement that Nikita Khrushchev made on 11 September 1962. It outlines how the Soviet Union assisted Cuba economically and militarily.

We do not hide from the world public that we really are supplying Cuba with resources such as industrial equipment and goods which are helping to strengthen her economy and to raise the well-being of the Cuban people.

... a certain amount of armaments is also being shipped from the Soviet Union to Cuba at the request of the Cuban government because of aggressive threats by imperialists. Castro also requested the Soviet government to send military specialists and technicians to Cuba who would train the Cubans in handling up-to-date weapons which require high skills and in-depth knowledge. It is but natural that Cuba does not yet have such specialists. That is why we considered this request. It must, however, be said that the number of Soviet military specialists sent to Cuba can in no way be compared to the number of workers in agriculture and industry sent there. The armaments and military equipment sent to Cuba are designed exclusively for defensive purposes. The President of the United States and the American military know what means of defence are. How can these means threaten the United States?

We have said, and we do repeat, that if war is unleashed (started), if the aggressor makes an attack on one state or another and this state asks for assistance, the Soviet Union has the possibility from its own territory to render assistance to any peace-loving state and not only to Cuba ...

We do not say this to frighten someone. Intimidation (bullying) is alien (unknown) to the foreign policy of the Soviet State. Threats and blackmail are an integral part of the imperialist states. The Soviet Union stands for peace and wants no war.

[From http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/precrisis.htm. Accessed on 21 August 2019.]

1.2 Read Source 1B.

1.2.1 According to the source, what resources did Khrushchev supply to Cuba? (2 x 1) (2)

1.2.2 Explain why Khrushchev stated that 'the armaments and military equipment sent to Cuba are designed exclusively for defensive purposes'. (1 x 2) (2)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.2.3 Comment on what Khrushchev implied by the statement 'Threats and blackmail are an integral part of the imperialist states' in the context of the Cold War in Cuba. (2 x 2) (4)

SOURCE 1C

The source below focuses on how President Kennedy reacted to the deployment of Soviet missiles to Cuba.

All Americans, as well as all of our friends in this Hemisphere, have been concerned over the Soviet Union's role to bolster (strengthen) the military power of the Castro regime in Cuba. Information has reached this government in the last four days from a variety of sources which establishes without doubt that the Soviets have provided the Cuban government with a number of anti-aircraft defence missiles with a range of twenty-five miles ... Along with these missiles, the Soviets are apparently providing the extensive radar (sensor) and other electronic equipment which is required for their operation.

We can also confirm the presence of several Soviet-made motor torpedo boats carrying ship-to-ship guided missiles having a range of fifteen miles. The number of Soviet military technicians now known to be in Cuba or en route is approximately 3 500 and is consistent with assistance in setting up and learning to use this equipment. As I stated last week, we shall continue to make information available as fast as it is obtained and properly verified (checked).

The Cuban question must be considered as a part of the worldwide challenge posed by the communist threat to democracy, peace, stability and prosperity. It must be dealt with as a part of that larger issue as well as in the context of the special relationships which have long characterised the inter-American system.

It continues to be the policy of the United States that the Castro regime will not be allowed to export its aggressive purposes by force or the threat of force. It will be prevented by whatever means may be necessary from taking action against any part of the Western Hemisphere.

[From http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/jfkstate.htm. Accessed on 19 August 2019.]

1.3 Study Source 1C.

1.3.1 According to the source, why was Kennedy concerned about the Soviet Union's presence in Cuba? (1 x 2) (2)

1.3.2 Explain what you think prompted Kennedy to inform the American public about the deployment of Soviet military equipment to Cuba. (2 x 2) (4)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.3.3 Quote FOUR challenges from the source that communism posed to the world. (4 x 1) (4)

1.3.4 Using the information in the source and your own knowledge, explain the limitations of this source to a historian researching the Cuban Missile Crisis. (2 x 2) (4)

SOURCE 1D

The headline below is taken from an American newspaper, *The Arizona Republic*, published on 23 October 1962. The headline reads 'U.S. BLOCKADES CUBA, TELLS RUSS "LAY OFF" '.


REPUBLIC CITY

Phoenix Weather

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Today's Chuckle

THE STATE'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Phoenix, Arizona, Tuesday, 23 October 1962

U.S. BLOCKADES CUBA, TELLS RUSS 'LAY OFF'

[From https://govbooktalk.gpo.gov/2012/10/18/hawks-vs-doves-the-joint-chiefs-and-the-cuban-missile-crisis/. Accessed on 16 April 2019.]

The word 'RUSS' refers to RUSSIA.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.4 Consult Source 1D.

1.4.1 Explain why you think this article was published on the front page of *The Arizona Republic*. (1 x 2) (2)

1.4.2 Comment on the newspaper headline 'U.S. BLOCKADES CUBA, TELLS RUSS "LAY OFF" ' in the context of the Cuban Missile Crisis. (2 x 2) (4)

1.5 Refer to Sources 1C and 1D. Explain how the information in Source 1C supports the evidence in Source 1D regarding Kennedy's response to the deployment of Soviet missiles to Cuba. (2 x 2) (4)

1.6 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph of about EIGHT lines (about 80 words) explaining how the Soviet Union and the United States of America contributed to Cold War tensions in Cuba in the 1960s. (8)

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LIVEWORKSHEETS