**Cold War Key Topic 1 Assessment**

**Model Answers**

**Aiming for Grade 4**

1. **Explain two consequences of the Berlin Crisis, 1948-49. (8)**

One consequence of the Berlin Crisis was that relations between the USA and USSR got worse. Stalin’s blockade was seen as aggressive. After the crisis, the country was separated into two parts. This made relations even worse.



A second consequence of the Berlin Crisis was the impact on the leaders. Stalin came out very badly. He looked weak, as he had to end the blockade but Truman and the Western leaders looked like heroes, saving people with the Berlin Airlift. It was good for the West.

1. **Write a narrative account analysing the main developments of the US containment policy, 1947-49. (8)**

After WWII, the USSR began taking over countries in Eastern Europe and making them Communist. This went against agreements they made in the war.

As a result, Kennan sent the Long Telegram to Truman warning him that the Soviets were aggressive, so he introduced the Truman Doctrine. This aimed to stop Communism from spreading any further.

This also led to the Marshall Plan***.*** This gave money to countries in Europe to help them rebuild after the war, and not become Communist.

Consequently, relations between the East and West got much worse. The USSR made their own versions of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan. There were now two rival groups in Europe.

1. **Explain the importance of the establishment of NATO in 1949 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (8)**

The establishment of NATO in 1949 was very important as it made relations between the USA and the Soviet Union worse. NATO was a military alliance. Stalin felt angry about this united military force, which posed a threat to Soviet security. Furthermore, when West Germany was allowed to join NATO, Stalin was angry. Stalin responded by creating the Warsaw Pact. This worsened relations even further. It is therefore clear that the establishment of NATO led to making relations between the USA and Soviet Union much worse.

**Aiming for Grade 6**

1. **Explain two consequences of the Berlin Crisis, 1948-49. (8)**

One consequence of the Berlin Crisis was that relations between the USA and USSR got worse. Stalin’s actions in blockading the city were seen as aggressive, and as an attack on West Berlin***.*** Following the crisis, the separation of the country into East and West Germany made relations even worse.



A second consequence of the Berlin Crisis was the impact on the leaders. Stalin came out very negatively, and was now seen as the villain, attempting to starve the West Berliners. He also looked weak, as he had to remove the blockade, which was seen as a Soviet defeat. On the other hand, Truman and the Western leaders looked like heroes, having refused to allow Stalin to win and saving the people of Berlin with supplies in the Berlin Airlift. It was seen as a victory for the West.

1. **Write a narrative account analysing the main developments of the US containment policy, 1947-49. (8)**

From 1945, following the end of WWII, the USSR began to expand across Eastern Europe. They took over countries such as Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.This expansion went against agreements made at Yalta and Potsdam.

As a result, George Kennan sent what became known as the Long Telegram to Truman warning of the Soviets’ aggressive actions. As a result, Truman introduced the Truman Doctrine in 1947. This aimed to contain Communism where it already was, and stop it from spreading any further.

This also led to the introduction of the Marshall Plan in 1948***.*** This plan aimed to provide economic aid to countries in Europe to help them rebuild, and not rely on Communism, which did very well in poorer areas.

Consequently, relations between the East and West deteriorated rapidly, as the West was now actively trying to prevent the spread of Communism through its containment policy. The USSR responded with their own versions of the US policy – Cominform and Comecon. There were now two rival camps in Europe.

1. **Explain the importance of the establishment of NATO in 1949 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (8)**

The establishment of NATO in 1949 was very important as it worsened relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. Before 1948, relations had been tense but peaceful. Tensions rose during the Berlin Crisis on 1948-49, and the subsequent establishment of NATO in 1949 led to a further deterioration in relations. NATO was a military alliance, made up of Western nations friendly to the USA. Stalin felt intimated by and angry about this united military force, which posed a threat to Soviet security. This was important in worsening relations between the two sides.

Furthermore, when West Germany was allowed to join NATO, Stalin was furious. Stalin responded by creating the Warsaw Pact in 1955. This worsened relations even further, as Europe was now split into two defensive and angry camps, now both armed with nuclear weapons. It is therefore clear that the establishment of NATO led to a significant decline in relations between the USA and Soviet Union.

**Aiming for Grade 9**

1. **Explain two consequences of the Berlin Crisis, 1948-49. (8)**

One consequence of the Berlin Crisis was that relations between the USA and USSR deteriorated. Stalin’s actions in blockading the city were seen as aggressive, and as an attack on West Berlin, which was under Western influence as agreed at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945***.*** Following the crisis, the separation of the country the FRG (West Germany) and the GDR (East Germany) made relations even worse.



A second consequence of the Berlin Crisis was the impact on the leaders. Stalin came out very negatively, and was now seen as the villain, attempting to starve the West Berliners, as they only had 36 days’ worth of food left. He also looked weak, as he had to remove the blockade, which was seen as a Soviet defeat. On the other hand, Truman and the Western leaders looked like heroes, having refused to allow Stalin to win and saving the people of Berlin with 2.3 million tons supplies in the Berlin Airlift. It was seen as a victory for the West.

1. **Write a narrative account analysing the main developments of the US containment policy, 1947-49. (8)**

From 1945, following the end of WWII, the USSR began to expand across Eastern Europe. They took over countries such as Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania, among others through a combination of rigged elections, force and supporting Communist coups.This expansion of their sphere of influence went against agreements made at the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences in 1945, where it had been agreed that free elections would be held in Eastern Europe.

As a result, George Kennan, a US diplomat in Moscow, sent what became known as the Long Telegram to Truman warning of the Soviets’ aggressive actions, and suggesting a more forceful policy be adopted by the USA. As a result, Truman introduced the Truman Doctrine in 1947, which adopted the policy of Containment. This aimed to contain Communism where it already was, and stop it from spreading any further by supporting governments resisting Communist rebels.

This also led to the introduction of the Marshall Plan, or European Recovery Program, in 1948***.*** This plan, introduced by George Marshall, aimed to provide economic aid to war-torn countries in Europe to help them rebuild, and supported 16 nations with over $13 billion. This aid allowed nations to be self-sufficient and not rely on Communism, which did very well in poorer areas.

Consequently, relations between the East and West deteriorated rapidly, as the West was now actively trying to prevent the spread of Communism through its containment policy. The Marshall Plan was perceived by Stalin as ‘dollar imperialism’ – America’s way of buying countries’ support and attacking Communism. The USSR responded with their own versions of the US policy – Cominform and Comecon, which promised similar aid and coordination throughout Communist nations. As Stalin banned countries in the Soviet sphere of influence from receiving Marshall Aid, there were now two distinct, and rival, camps in Europe.

1. **Explain the importance of the establishment of NATO in 1949 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (8)**

The establishment of NATO in 1949 was very important as it worsened relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. Before 1948, relations had been tense but peaceful. Tensions rose during the Berlin Crisis on 1948-49, and the subsequent establishment of NATO in 1949 led to a further deterioration in relations. NATO (or the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was a military alliance, made up of Western nations friendly to the USA including Canada, the UK, and nine other Western European nations. Stalin felt intimated by and angry about this united military force, which posed a threat to Soviet security as it allowed the USA to place nuclear weapons in any member states, including Norway or Denmark, very close to the Soviet border. This was important in worsening relations between the two sides.

Furthermore, when the FRG (West Germany) was allowed to join NATO in 1955, Stalin was furious as this symbolised the rearming of a nation that the Soviets felt should have been weakened or destroyed after WWII. Stalin responded by creating the Warsaw Pact in 1955, a Communist military alliance. This worsened relations even further, as Europe was now split into two defensive and angry camps, now both armed with nuclear weapons following development of the US and Soviet H Bombs in 1952 and 1953 respectively. It is therefore clear that the establishment of NATO led to a significant decline in relations between the USA and Soviet Union.