

## Paper 2, Question 1

Explain two consequences of the decisions made by The Grand Alliance at the Yalta Conference in February 1945. (8 marks)

### Exam tip

The question wants you to explain the results of something. What difference did it make? Use phrases such as 'as a result' or 'the effect of this was'.

### Strong answer

Consequence 1:

*At the Yalta Conference the Big Three decided what would happen to Germany after the war. As a result of the conference Germany was divided into four zones, controlled by Britain, the USA, the Soviet Union and France. Each country had the right to govern its sector as it saw fit. However, Stalin believed that in the end he had been given the poorest sector and resented the fact that the Western Allies administered the wealthier parts. So this led to worse relations between East and West as Germany became an area of tension.*

Consequence 2:

*Yalta led to an increase in suspicion between Stalin and the USA / Britain. This suspicion was as a result of the failure to agree on how Poland should be governed. There was general agreement that a government would be elected using free elections, but this meant different things to each country. To Stalin it meant using his influence to ensure a pro-Moscow government. Britain and the USA supported the 'London Poles' who were non-Communists. Stalin wanted a Communist government in Poland as part of his plan to build a buffer zone. He saw the action of Britain and the USA as trying to undermine the security of the Soviet Union. So relations worsened.*

A clear explanation of the impact of the division of Germany, with specific factual support.

A valid point very well explained, with a high level of factual support.

### Verdict

This is a strong answer because it has explained two consequences and supported both with specific information showing good knowledge of the period.