

Paper 2, Question 3

Explain two of the following:

- The importance of the Truman Doctrine for international relations after the Second World War
- The importance of the building of the Berlin Wall for the development of the Cold War
- The importance of the Olympic boycotts for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. (16 marks)

The sample answer below covers just the bullet point about the Olympic boycotts. Don't forget in the exam you need to write about two.

Strong answer



By the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, détente was coming to an end. As a result of the invasion, the Americans issued the Carter Doctrine and looked for ways to show their disapproval of the Soviet Union. Boycotting the Moscow Olympics provided an excellent opportunity.

This really upset the Soviet Union because it was hoping to use the Olympics to show everyone how great communism was and how successful athletes from Warsaw Pact countries were (so proving that communist society was better). So the American boycott was important because it made it plain to the Soviet Union that the period of co-operation was over and that the USA still considered itself as the leader of the democratic world, ready to resist attempts to spread communism.

Equally, the Moscow boycott angered the Soviet Union which retaliated by leading the Warsaw Pact countries in a boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. This showed the world was still divided in two camps, East and West.

So the Olympic boycotts made the Cold War colder and showed that the USA and the Soviet Union were still bitter rivals.

This answer correctly identifies that the boycotts were important in intensifying the Cold War.

There is also factual support to explain how the boycotts intensified the Cold War.

Verdict

This is a strong answer because it explains importance by showing the consequences of the boycotts and their impact on the Cold War. It supports the argument with good detail.