International Relations Since 1945 3rd edition Young Test Bank

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Essay Questions: 1953-63

1. Why was there a period of détente in the years following Stalin's death and why did this come to an end by 1957?

2. Examine the reasons for anti-communist unrest in East Germany, Poland and Hungary in the years 1953-56.

3. How seriously did Khrushchev's policies of "destalinization" threaten the stability of the Eastern bloc?

4. Why did the Soviet Union intervene militarily in Hungary but not Poland in 1956?

5. 'A Western creation, with no real roots in Middle Eastern political agendas.' Discuss this assessment of the Baghdad Pact.

6. How far was the Suez crisis a 'turning point' for Britain and France's position as major powers?

7. How were 'the Six' (France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg) able to recover so quickly from the collapse of the European Defence Community in 1954 and lay the foundations of the European Economic Community in 1957?

8. Why was Britain not a founder member of the European Economic Community in 1957?

9. What was at stake between the US and China during the Offshore Islands crises?

10. EITHER Account for the bitterness of the Algerian war of independence OR Critically examine de Gaulle's policy towards Algeria in 1958-62.

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11. Why was French rule in Black Africa brought to an end so rapidly under the Fifth Republic?

12. Why did it prove more difficult to end the British Empire in southern Africa than it did in East and West Africa?

13. 'The Congo conflict of the early 1960s was largely a result of external intervention.' Discuss.

14. Why did the US not prevent Castro coming to power in Cuba or successfully overthrow him once he did?

15. How was a superpower conflict avoided during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

16. Why did it prove impossible to create a politically stable South Vietnam under Ngo Dinh Diem (1955-63)?

17. What were the main difficulties facing a permanent resolution of the German problem in the years 1953-61?

18. Why was Berlin at the centre of Superpower tensions in the years 1958-61?

19. Why was such little progress made on controlling nuclear arms between the death of Stalin and the Cuban Missile Crisis?

20. Critically examine the way US national security policy developed under Eisenhower and Kennedy.

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