

History

Paper 2R (AS) Additional Specimen Question
Paper

Question 03 Student 1

Specimen Answer and Commentary

V1.0 18/03/16

Specimen Answer plus commentary

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

Paper 2R (AS): Additional Specimen question paper

03 'Credit for the peaceful resolution of the Cuban missile crisis should be shared equally between Khrushchev and Kennedy.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

Student response

It could be said that credit for the peaceful resolution of the Cuban missile crisis should be shared equally between Khrushchev and Kennedy as they both removed their missiles from where they had been placed (USSR in Cuba and USA in Turkey) it could also be argued that both Kennedy and Khrushchev worked together to remove the threat during the quarantine America placed on Russian vessels as Kennedy never sank the ships/Submarines and Khrushchev regarded the rules of the quarantine and turned his ships around. However, the credit for peaceful resolutions of the Cuban Missile crisis should not be shared equally between Kennedy and Khrushchev as although they both took their missiles out of their locations, only Khrushchev did it publicly, whereas Kennedy did it in secret. Secondly, Khrushchev was the first to make any real negotiations between the two and without him sending two telegrams to Kennedy, there could have been a war.

It could be argued that Kennedy + Khrushchev worked together to remove the threat of war during the quarantine placed under "Soviet Vessels" as although Kennedy had threatened to sink Soviet ships, but never even got close to doing it, and although Khrushchev said that he would make sure the ships got to Cuba and ignore the quarantine he turned his ships/submarines around. Whether it was out of fear of war or Khrushchev was willing to oblige by Kennedy's rules he removed the threat of war bringing a peaceful resolution to the Cuban missile crisis and great relief to the American people.

Secondly, both sides agreed to pull their missiles out of the areas they had them in. For America they were in Turkey, on Russia's border and for Russia they were in Cuba. Both sides used nuclear arms as a threat to the other and removing missiles from their zones showed co-operation between the two powers, and for that it could be argued that credit for the peaceful resolution of the Cuban missile crisis should be shared equally, between Khrushchev and Kennedy.

However, credit for the peaceful resolution of the missile crisis should not be shared equally between Kennedy and Khrushchev as Khrushchev was the only one to fully co-operating between the two powers. Khrushchev sent a telegram in 1962 telling Kennedy that he would take his missiles out of Cuba if he promised not to attack, Kennedy didn't even reply to the telegram, and this shows that there was a lack of co-operation on Kennedy's side, leaving it to Khrushchev. Khrushchev sent a second telegram while waiting for Kennedy to reply, and after replying to his second telegram he sent his brother to Russia to discuss the new agreement. He wouldn't even meet with Khrushchev himself and had very little contact with him which shows that Kennedy deserves very little credit for the peaceful resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis as he did very little to co-operate with Khrushchev and

the soviets and it was in fact Khrushchev doing all the work.

Secondly, after arranging a new agreement with Khrushchev, which was disarmament of nuclear weapons in occupied zones. Khrushchev publically demolished the nuclear sight in cuba, and images were caught on spy plane footage, whereas Kennedy removed his missiles from Turkey in secret and it got next to no public attention. This shows that Khrushchev was willing to look weak by removing missiles from Cuba, especially during a time of colonisation and by looking less powerful than America, he could have lost countries that were interested in becoming part of the soviet union's colonies, to end the nuclear monopoly. Whereas Kennedy still put his public image before the safety of America, by barely co-operating with the Soviets and any co-operation that took place was done in private.

In conclusion, there are examples of when it could appear that credit for the peaceful resolution of the Cuban Missile crisis should be shared equally between Khrushchev and Kennedy. But after closer inspection, it is really Khrushchev that deserves credit for the peaceful resolutions of the Cuban Missile Crisis by his leadership of dealing with the nuclear monopoly, and his usefulness during the quarantine.

Commentary – Level 3

The answer is focused on the question and offers conclusions and evaluation, but lacks development in places and is confused in others. There is limited precise detail and too much rather general and assertive comment. It is a Level 3 answer.