

ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 12

The Cold War Era

Political Science · Chapter 1 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill

HOW TO USE

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER**Section A — VSA (1 mark × 4)**

Q1. When was NATO founded? [1 mark]

| **Ans:** 1949.

Q2. Name 2 founders of NAM (other than Nehru). [1 mark]

| **Ans:** Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt) and Josip Broz Tito (Yugoslavia).

Q3. Cuban Missile Crisis lasted how many days? [1 mark]

| **Ans:** 13 days (October 16-28, 1962).

Q4. Who launched glasnost and perestroika reforms in USSR? [1 mark]

| **Ans:** Mikhail Gorbachev (1985-91).

Section B — SA-I (3 marks × 2)

Q5. Distinguish between NAM and neutrality. [3 marks]

| **Ans:** NAM is NOT NEUTRALITY. (1) NEUTRALITY = doing nothing in international affairs, refusing to take positions. NAM = ACTIVE independence — taking positions on each issue based on national judgment. (2) NAM countries CRITICISED both blocs at various times — India criticised USSR for Hungary 1956 + USA for Vietnam War. Neutral countries (e.g., Switzerland) avoid all foreign policy positions. (3) NAM had positive PRINCIPLES (anti-colonialism, anti-racism, South-South cooperation). Neutrality has no positive content. Hence NAM is best described as 'INDEPENDENCE' or 'NON-ALIGNMENT', not neutrality.

Q6. What were the arenas of the Cold War? [3 marks]

| **Ans:** The Cold War was fought in FOUR ARENAS (avoiding direct US-USSR combat): (1) ARMS RACE — nuclear weapons stockpiling (by 1980s, ~70,000 warheads combined), conventional arms buildup. (2) SPACE RACE — Sputnik (1957), Yuri Gagarin (1961), Apollo 11 (1969) — space as Cold War symbol. (3) PROXY WARS — Korea (1950-53), Vietnam (1955-75), Afghanistan (1979-89), Angola, Nicaragua — superpowers backed opposing sides in regional conflicts. (4) IDEOLOGY + INTELLIGENCE — propaganda (Voice of America vs Soviet broadcasts), espionage (CIA vs KGB), cultural rivalry.

Section C — SA-II (5 marks × 3)

Q7. What was the Cold War? Discuss its origins and explain why it is called 'cold'. [5 marks]

| **Ans:** The COLD WAR (1945-1991) was a period of intense IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, and MILITARY rivalry between the USA (capitalist bloc) and the USSR (communist bloc), without ever erupting into direct armed combat between them. WHY 'COLD': The two superpowers NEVER FOUGHT EACH OTHER DIRECTLY. Conflict was waged through (a) PROXY WARS in third countries (Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan), (b) ARMS RACE (nuclear stockpiling), (c) IDEOLOGICAL propaganda, (d) DIPLOMATIC + intelligence pressure. Direct war was avoided due to MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION (MAD) — both had nuclear weapons; war = civilisation's end. ORIGINS — three factors: (1) POST-WW2 POWER VACUUM: Britain + France + Germany + Japan exhausted; only USA + USSR remained as superpowers. (2) INCOMPATIBLE IDEOLOGIES: USA championed capitalism + liberal democracy; USSR championed communism + state control. (3) EUROPE DIVIDED: Yalta (1945) divided Europe into US-aligned West + Soviet-aligned East. Truman Doctrine (1947) — US containment of communism. Marshall Plan (1948) — US economic aid. Berlin Blockade (1948-49) — first major crisis. The Cold War shaped global politics for 45 years until the USSR dissolved in 1991.

Q8. Discuss the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) and its significance as a turning point in the Cold War. [5 marks]

Ans: CONTEXT: By 1962, the Cold War was at an aggressive peak. USA had nuclear missiles in TURKEY (close to USSR). USSR sought parity by installing nuclear missiles in CUBA — 90 miles from US coast, well within striking range of major US cities. THE 13-DAY CRISIS (October 16-28, 1962): Oct 16 — US U-2 spy planes photograph Soviet missile installations. JFK assembles ExComm. Oct 22 — JFK announces NAVAL QUARANTINE (blockade) of Cuba; demands missile withdrawal. SAC goes to DEFCON 2. Oct 24-26 — Soviet ships approach blockade line; they eventually turn back. Oct 27 — 'Black Saturday'; US U-2 shot down over Cuba; brink of war. Oct 28 — Khrushchev agrees to withdraw Cuban missiles in exchange for SECRET US withdrawal of Turkey missiles + non-invasion pledge. Crisis ENDS. SIGNIFICANCE AS TURNING POINT: (1) CLOSEST world came to nuclear war — sobered both leaderships. (2) WASHINGTON-MOSCOW HOTLINE established (Aug 1963). (3) PARTIAL TEST BAN TREATY (1963) — banning above-ground nuclear tests. (4) Beginning of DETENTE — period of reduced US-USSR tension. (5) Foundation for later arms control: SALT I (1972), SALT II (1979). The crisis demonstrated that even bitter rivals would step back from nuclear holocaust. The Cold War continued but with managed risk.

Q9. What is the Non-Aligned Movement? Discuss India's role and contribution. [5 marks]

Ans: DEFINITION: The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a coalition of newly-independent and developing nations that, during the Cold War, REFUSED to formally ally with either bloc. NAM emphasised national INDEPENDENCE, anti-colonialism, anti-racism, and South-South cooperation. ORIGINS + DATES: Bandung Conference (Indonesia, 1955) — 29 Asian-African nations met to assert independence — ideological origin. Belgrade Summit (Yugoslavia, 1961) — 25 countries formally founded NAM. FOUNDERS: Jawaharlal NEHRU (India), Gamal Abdel NASSER (Egypt), Josip Broz TITO (Yugoslavia). Often Kwame NKRUMAH (Ghana) and SUKARNO (Indonesia) added as co-founders. INDIA'S ROLE: (1) Nehru was a CO-FOUNDER and architect of NAM principles. (2) Nehru formulated PANCHSHEEL (1954, with China) — five principles of peaceful coexistence (mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality, peaceful coexistence) which became the NAM foundation. (3) India HOSTED NAM Summit in New Delhi 1983 (Indira Gandhi). (4) India CRITICISED BOTH BLOCS — USSR for Hungary 1956 + USA for Vietnam War — proving NAM was independence, not neutrality. CONTRIBUTION: India helped build NAM as a collective voice for developing nations in superpower-dominated UN. Advocated decolonisation, fair trade (New International Economic Order). Today NAM has 120+ members; original raison d'être faded with Cold War end, but it remains a forum for Global South solidarity.

★ TOPPER ANSWER TEMPLATES

3 TEMPLATES · MEMORISE THE FORMAT

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'What was the Cold War? Why is it called "cold"? Discuss origins.'

Annual

Step 1 [1 mark]	Define Cold War	The Cold War (1945-1991) was a period of intense IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, and MILITARY RIVALRY between the United States (capitalist bloc) and the Soviet Union (communist bloc), without ever erupting into a direct armed conflict between them.
Step 2 [1 mark]	Why 'cold'	Called 'cold' because the two superpowers NEVER FOUGHT EACH OTHER DIRECTLY in a 'hot' military war. The conflict was waged through (a) PROXY WARS in third countries (Korea 1950, Vietnam 1955, Afghanistan 1979), (b) ARMS RACE (nuclear stockpiling), (c) IDEOLOGICAL propaganda, (d) DIPLOMATIC pressure. Direct US-USSR combat was avoided largely due to MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION (MAD) — both had nuclear weapons; war would mean civilisation's end.
Step 3 [2 marks]	Origins (3 factors)	(1) POST-WW2 POWER VACUUM — Britain and other European powers were exhausted; USA + USSR emerged as the two remaining superpowers. (2) INCOMPATIBLE IDEOLOGIES — USA championed CAPITALISM + LIBERAL DEMOCRACY; USSR championed COMMUNISM + state-controlled economy. (3) EUROPE DIVIDED — at Yalta (1945), the Allies agreed to occupied zones in Germany; this hardened into Western Europe (US-aligned) + Eastern Europe (Soviet-occupied). Truman Doctrine (1947) — US pledge to contain communism. Marshall Plan (1948) — US economic aid to Western Europe. Berlin Blockade (1948-49) — first major Cold War crisis.
Step 4 [1 mark]	Conclusion + significance	The Cold War shaped global politics for 45 years — alliances (NATO 1949 vs Warsaw Pact 1955), proxy wars killing millions, arms race threatening nuclear holocaust, and ideological competition pervading every developing country. Ended in 1989-91 with the dissolution of the USSR.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Not stating 'no direct armed conflict' as the meaning of 'cold'.
- Missing the 3 origin factors (power vacuum + ideologies + Europe divided).
- Treating it as just US vs USSR without mentioning the broader blocs.
- Not mentioning MAD as the reason direct war was avoided.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'Discuss the Cuban Missile Crisis as a turning point in the Cold War.'**

Annual

Step 1 [1 mark]	Set context	By 1962, the Cold War was at an aggressive peak. USA had nuclear missiles in Turkey (close to USSR). USSR sought parity by installing nuclear missiles in CUBA — 90 miles from US coast, well within striking range of major US cities.
Step 2 [2 marks]	The 13-day crisis (Oct 16-28, 1962)	October 16: US U-2 spy planes photographed Soviet missile installations in Cuba. President JFK convened ExComm advisors. Options: invasion vs naval blockade vs diplomatic. October 22: JFK announced NAVAL QUARANTINE (blockade) of Cuba on national TV; demanded missile withdrawal. October 24-26: Soviet ships approached the line; world held breath; ships eventually turned back. October 27: 'Black Saturday' — US U-2 shot down over Cuba; tensions peaked. October 28: Khrushchev agreed to withdraw Cuban missiles in exchange for secret US withdrawal of missiles from Turkey + non-invasion pledge. Crisis resolved.
Step 3 [1 mark]	Why a turning point	(a) CLOSEST world came to NUCLEAR WAR — sobered both leaderships. (b) HOTLINE between Washington-Moscow established (Aug 1963) to prevent miscommunication. (c) PARTIAL TEST BAN TREATY signed 1963 (banning above-ground nuclear tests). (d) Beginning of DETENTE — period of reduced US-USSR tension.
Step 4 [1 mark]	Long-term significance	The crisis demonstrated that both superpowers, despite ideological rivalry, would step back from nuclear holocaust. It signalled the beginning of arms control negotiations (SALT I 1972, SALT II 1979) and set the framework for managing the Cold War without direct confrontation. Cuba remained a Cold War flashpoint, but never again was the world this close to nuclear war.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Treating it as a long crisis (it was 13 days).
- Missing the Turkey-missiles exchange (the secret backdoor deal).
- Not naming JFK + Khrushchev.
- Forgetting the detente + arms control aftermath.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-mark: 'What is the Non-Aligned Movement? Discuss India's role.'**

Annual

Step 1 [1 mark]	Define NAM	The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a coalition of newly-independent and developing nations that, during the Cold War, REFUSED to formally ally with either the US-led capitalist bloc or the USSR-led communist bloc. NAM emphasised national INDEPENDENCE, anti-colonialism, anti-racism, and South-South cooperation.
Step 2 [2 marks]	Founders + key dates	NAM emerged at the BANDUNG CONFERENCE (Indonesia, 1955) — 29 Asian-African nations met to assert independence from superpower control. Formal NAM founded at BELGRADE SUMMIT (Yugoslavia, 1961) — 25 countries. FOUNDERS: JAWAHARLAL NEHRU (India), GAMAL ABDEL NASSER (Egypt), JOSIP BROZ TITO (Yugoslavia), with KWAME NKRUMAH (Ghana) and SUKARNO (Indonesia) often listed as co-founders. By 2020s, NAM has 120+ member countries.
Step 3 [1 mark]	India's role	India was a CO-FOUNDER + a leading voice. Nehru's foreign policy was built on Panchsheel — 5 principles of peaceful coexistence (mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality, peaceful coexistence). India hosted NAM Summit 1983. India CRITICISED both blocs at various times — USSR for Hungary 1956 invasion + USA for Vietnam War. Showed NAM was INDEPENDENCE, not neutrality.
Step 4 [1 mark]	Significance + NAM today	NAM gave developing nations a COLLECTIVE VOICE in superpower-dominated UN. Helped force decolonisation discussions. NAM advocated for New International Economic Order (NIEO) calling for fairer terms of trade. POST-COLD WAR: NAM's original raison d'être (avoid bipolar alignment) faded; NAM today focuses on Global South solidarity, trade equity, climate justice.

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Calling NAM 'neutrality' (it was independence, not neutrality).
- Missing the 3 founders by name.
- Confusing 1955 Bandung (origin) with 1961 Belgrade (formal founding).
- Forgetting Panchsheel.

MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES

- Specific names + dates + countries mandatory for full marks.
- Treat NAM as INDEPENDENCE (not neutrality) — wrong terminology loses 1 mark.
- Cuban Crisis = 13 days — get the duration right.
- Mention secret Turkey-missiles deal in any Cuban Crisis answer (often overlooked).
- Concluding statement on 5-markers = 1 mark.