



EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

The Cold War Era

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

COLD WAR: 1945-1991. USA (capitalist) vs USSR (communist). NEVER direct armed conflict — hence 'cold'.

WHY NO DIRECT WAR: Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) — both had nuclear weapons; war = civilisation end.

ORIGIN: WW2 ends 1945 → power vacuum → US + USSR superpowers → ideological + geopolitical clash → Truman Doctrine 1947.

ALLIANCES: NATO 1949 (US-led, Western Europe + N. America). Warsaw Pact 1955 (USSR-led, Eastern Europe). SEATO 1954 (US, SE Asia). CENTO 1955 (US, Middle East).

ARENAS: ARMS RACE (nuclear stockpiling) · SPACE RACE (Sputnik 1957, Apollo 11 1969) · PROXY WARS (Korea 1950-53, Vietnam 1955-75, Afghanistan 1979-89, Angola, Nicaragua) · IDEOLOGY (USIA vs Soviet propaganda)

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS: 13 days, Oct 16-28, 1962. JFK vs Khrushchev. USSR withdrew Cuban missiles; US secretly withdrew Turkey missiles + non-invasion pledge. Closest to nuclear war.

RESULT OF CRISIS: Hotline (1963), Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963), Detente begins.

NAM: Bandung 1955 (origin), Belgrade 1961 (formal founding). 25 countries. Founders: Nehru + Nasser + Tito + Nkrumah + Sukarno.

NAM = INDEPENDENCE (not neutrality). India often criticised both blocs.

PANCHSHEEL: 5 principles of peaceful coexistence (1954 India-China). Foundation of Nehru's foreign policy.

END OF COLD WAR: 1989 Berlin Wall falls. 1990 German

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

- 1 Cold War origins + why 'cold'**
5 marks · 80% of years
Define + 4-step proof of 'no direct war' + 3 origin factors + conclusion.
- 2 Cuban Missile Crisis as turning point**
5 marks · 75% of years
Context + 13-day timeline + Turkey deal + significance (detente, arms control).
- 3 NAM + India's role**
5 marks · 90% of years
Define + Bandung/Belgrade dates + 3 founders + India's specific role + post-Cold War relevance.
- 4 Military alliances**
3 marks · 60% of years
NATO 1949 + Warsaw Pact 1955 + SEATO + CENTO with date + members.
- 5 Arenas of Cold War**
3 marks · 55% of years
Arms race + space race + proxy wars + ideology.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

- 0-15 min**
Memorise key dates: 1945, 1947, 1949, 1955, 1961, 1962, 1989, 1991. And key names: Nehru, Nasser, Tito, JFK, Khrushchev, Gorbachev.
- 15-30 min**
Write the 'Cold War origins' answer from memory.
- 30-45 min**
Write the 'Cuban Missile Crisis' answer with the 13-day timeline.
- 45-60 min**
Write the 'NAM + India' answer with founders + dates + India's specific actions.
- 60-75 min**
Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill.
- 75-90 min**
Review wrong answers. Re-derive Panchsheel principles + end-of-Cold-War timeline.

reunification. December 1991 USSR
formally dissolves.

GORBACHEV (1985-91): glasnost
(openness) + perestroika
(restructuring) — reform that
PRECIPITATED Soviet collapse.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning. Helpline: **+91 70330 05444 · readyforboards.com**