Cold War Themes Practice (Origin)

IB History

**Instructions:**

In your pairs use your notes to construct essay plans (thesis, topic sentences, evidence, historiography) for the below questions. The mark scheme descriptor has been provided below each question to guide you in your essay plan. When you are finished, select the **one** that you are most proud of and be prepared to share with another pair.

1. “The actions of individual leaders had a significant impact on the development of the Cold War.” Discuss with reference to two leaders, each from a different region.

*The question requires that candidates offer a considered and balanced review of the statement. The two leaders chosen must be from different regions but they may or may not have been contemporaneous with each other. Candidates may offer equal coverage of both leaders, or they may emphasize their discussion of one of them; however, both leaders will be a feature of the response. A comparative approach may or may not be used. Candidates may refer to the leaders’ roles in the establishment of a new pro-communist government, their involvement in proxy wars, or their promotion of the development of technology and/or armaments. Candidates may also refer to actions that led to divisions within one of the blocks, and the impetus this may have given to rapprochement with rival powers, their willingness to sign treaties, or to decrease military armament and/or involvement. Candidates may agree, partly agree or disagree with the statement.*

1. “Superpower rivalry in Europe and Asia between 1943 and 1949 led to the breakdown of the grand alliance.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

*The question requires that candidates consider the merits or otherwise of the statement that superpower rivalry in Europe and Asia during the suggested timeframe led to the breakdown of the grand alliance. Candidates may consider events that extend beyond 1949, but they must be clearly linked to the rivalries from within the timeframe. A comparative approach may or may not be used. While other relevant factors, for example different ideologies and/or styles of leadership, may be referred to, the bulk of the response will remain on the issue raised in the question. Candidates may agree, partly agree or disagree with the statement.*

1. “Ideology was the main factor that led to the emergence of superpower rivalry between 1943 and 1949.” Discuss.

*Candidates are required to offer a considered and balanced review of the hypothesis that ideology was the main factor that led to the emergence of superpower rivalry between 1943 and 1949. They may weigh ideology against other factors, but the role of ideological causes must be addressed. It may be valid to mention events before 1943 that had an impact lasting into the time period in question. However, candidates must not stray beyond 1949. Candidates may explain the ideological differences between the US and the USSR, but will link them to the emergence of superpower rivalry. They may also discuss the interaction of ideological and strategic factors, especially in respect of eastern Europe. Other factors for consideration may include the atomic bomb, the Marshall Plan and the role of personalities.*