

9.1 Contextualizing Cold War and Contemporary Europe

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write the **context** for postwar Europe.

You must be able to:

- state the three stages of the first thread
- explain what 'polarised' precisely means
- state what the knowledge thread had not resolved
- name the conditions in place in 1945

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Three stages

Total war and political instability gave way to a **polarised state order** during the Cold War and eventually to **efforts at transnational union**. Unit 8 delivered the first stage; unit 9 delivers the other two.

■ 'Polarised'

Two poles, with European states distributed between them. It is what remains when a three-way ideological contest loses a party.

■ Unresolved knowledge

Movements continued to question objective knowledge, reason's ability to arrive at truth, and religion's role in moral standards. 9.14 names existentialism and postmodernism, not a new certainty.

■ Conditions in 1945

A wartime alliance with deep-seated tensions, no shared conception of the state, and a continent whose economies had to be rebuilt.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three stages of the first thread. [3]

2.2 Explain what “polarised” means and how the order became so. [2]

2.3 The knowledge thread ends unresolved.

(a) State what 9.14 names instead of a new certainty. [1]

(b) State what this shows about the course’s shape. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The polarised order emerged because a three-way contest [1]

- **A** gained a party
- **B** lost a party
- **C** ended entirely
- **D** was never contested

3.2 After the polarised order the CED names [1]

- **A** a return to 1914
- **B** efforts at transnational union
- **C** a new empire
- **D** the Concert of Europe

3.3 A wartime alliance dissolves within two years of victory.

(a) State the CED’s word for the tensions involved. [1]

(b) Explain why they were older than the peace.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 total war and political instability; a polarised state order during the Cold War; efforts at transnational union.

2.2 two poles with states distributed between them; it is what remains when a three-way contest loses a party.

2.3 (a) existentialism and postmodernism. (b) the course ends in open questions rather than a conclusion.

3.1 B. fascism's defeat left two poles.

3.2 B. transnational union is the third stage.

3.3 (a) deep-seated. (b) 8.7 recorded distrust between the democracies and the Soviet Union before the war, so the alliance had suppressed rather than resolved the difference.