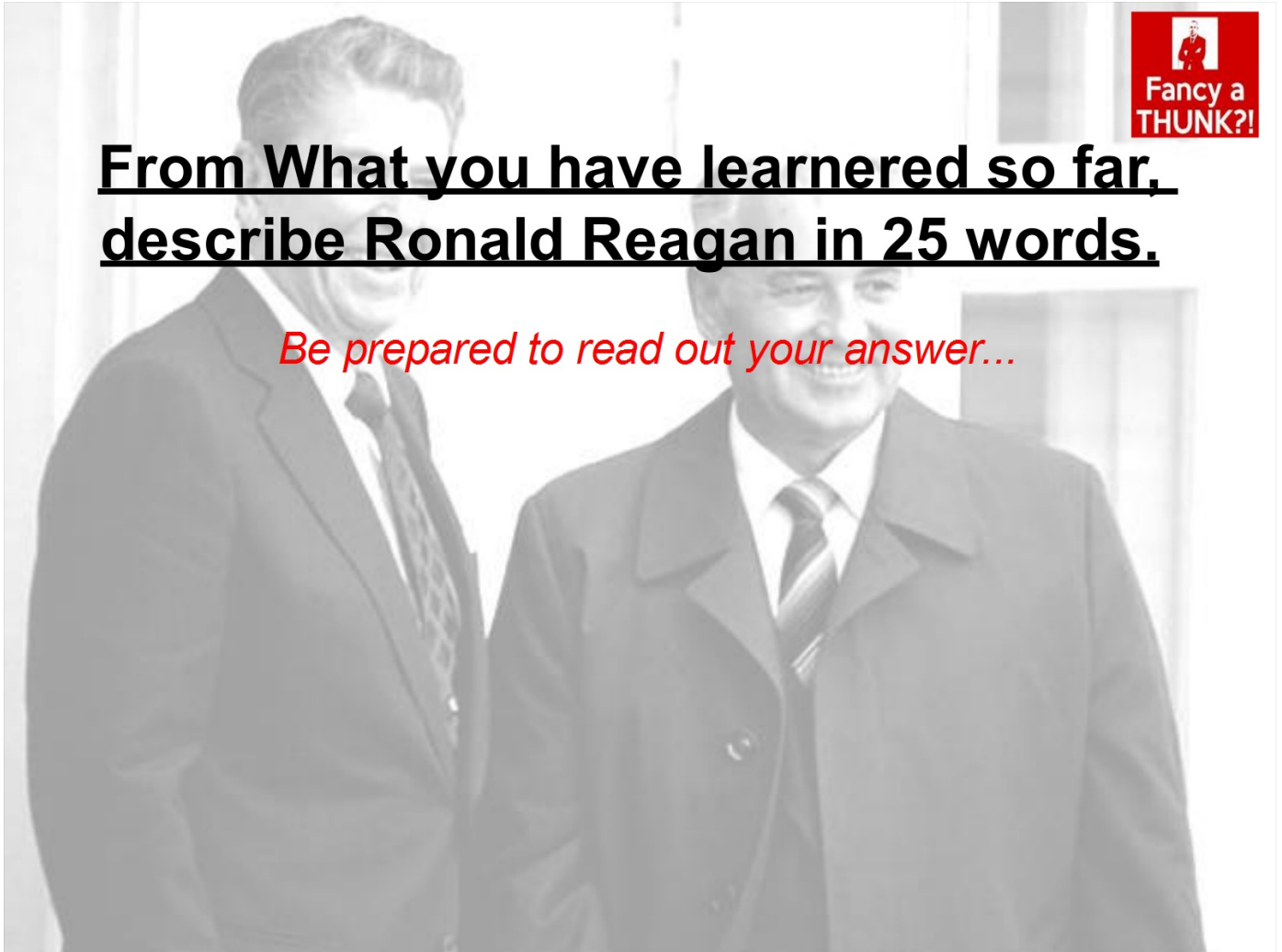




**From What you have learned so far,
describe Ronald Reagan in 25 words.**

Be prepared to read out your answer...



29th January



Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the
second Cold War.



Learning Gain - by the end of this lesson I will be able to give details of the 'Stars Wars' (SDI) project Reagan introduced during the second Cold War, analysing the Soviet response to it.



Learning Steps:



- Gain an overview of the events of the period
- Investigate a Case Study: 'Star Wars' (SDI)
- Analyse the consequences of Reagan's aggressive foreign policy



Why did the Cold War end? Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.



President Reagan was elected in November 1980, defeating President Jimmy Carter. Reagan's message was to rebuild American military strength after the Vietnam war and the Iranian hostage crisis. His "evil empire" speech increased tensions with the Soviet Union.

Reagan started secret operations in support of the mujahideen in Afghanistan and the "Contras" in Nicaragua. Both these policies were designed to challenge the spread of Communism in the world.

With the invasion of Grenada (another emerging communist state) and his surprising announcement of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" (critics dubbed it "Star Wars") in 1983, he seemed to be prepared to start a new arms race.

The 'Second Cold War' had started...



Introduction





Why did the Cold War end? Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.



Main



Information sheet

Reagan and the 'Second Cold War': 'Star Wars' - America strikes back

Learning objectives

- In this chapter you will learn about:
 - Reagan's view of SDI
 - A major problem created by SDI
 - His skills in the arms race.

Reagan's vision

When of Reagan's senior advisors reconsidered their view that when he talked about victory in the Cold War, he was only trying to win support from the American people, but Reagan had a bold vision: he was determined to win the Cold War. He famously believed that the Cold should fight to win. Specifically, Reagan believed that the only way to avoid a disarm by his new initiative: SDI through defense technology.

SDI - 'Star Wars'

Reagan's plan for winning the Cold War involved taking the arms race to a new level. He proposed a 'bullet intercepter', which would stop Soviet nuclear missiles before reaching American soil. Reagan's plan was to launch an army of satellites equipped with powerful lasers, which would intercept Soviet missiles in space and destroy them before they could do America any harm. For obvious reasons, Reagan's initiative soon became known as 'Star Wars'. Reagan believed that the 'Star Wars' technology would make Soviet nuclear missiles useless and therefore force the USSR to disarm.

SDI was a daunting goal in the arms race. During the 1980s, the superpowers had been evenly matched and had worked together to slow the growth of their nuclear arsenals. SDI was a complete break from the policy. In fact, SDI broke the terms of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 (see page 10), which was signed during the war and had committed the superpowers to use space technology for peaceful aims.

The Soviet response to SDI

SDI presented economic problems for the Russians. Soviet leaders were perfectly well aware they could not compete with Reagan's 'Star Wars' plan.

First, America had won the race to the moon in 1969, and by the early 1980s it had developed the most powerful spacecraft, the space shuttle. Secondly, the Soviet economy was not producing enough results to fund increasing growth, increased military spending and the development of new space-based weapons.

Finally, the USSR was behind America in terms of its computer technology. During the 1980s, the American computer market boomed. Four to five 100,000 Soviet readers with highly sensitive microchips because they were concerned they might be used to undermine the power of the Communists. Being the strength, computers with word processors and printers could be used to produce anti-government propaganda, or computers could be used to track activity by governments in the West. Computers were essential for the development of a 'Star Wars' type programme.

For these reasons, Reagan's proposals meant that the USSR could no longer compete in the arms race.

Further notes on SDI from the video clip:

Read your information sheet
It may be a good idea to highlight important information on your sheet as you go along...

Watch the clip below about Reagan's SDI initiative.

Add notes from the video to this section of your sheet...





Why did the Cold War end?
Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.

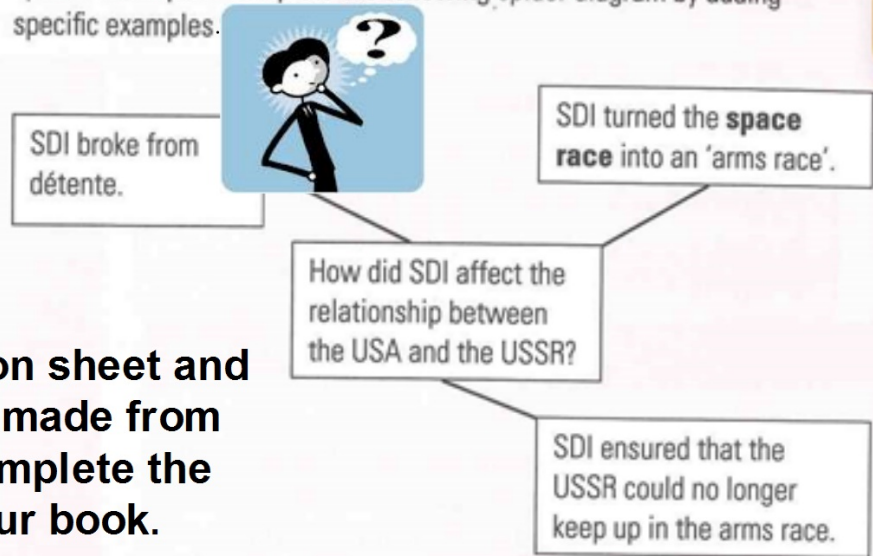


Main



Activity

In the exam, it is important that you support your general points with specific examples. Complete the following spider diagram by adding specific examples.



Task:

Use your information sheet and the notes you have made from the video clip to complete the task opposite in your book.



Why did the Cold War end? Lesson 5 - Ronald Reagan... the second Cold War.



examzone Build better answers

Exam question: Describe how SDI affected the relationship between the USA and the USSR. (6 marks)

- **A basic answer (level 1)** contains simple statements that are accurate but contain no supporting examples.
- **A good answer (level 2)** contains statements that are accurate and are developed with specific information.
- ▲ **An excellent answer (full marks)** includes two or three detailed statements. Each statement must make a relevant point, backed up with specific examples and an explanation of how this affected the relationship between the USA and the USSR.

For the question above, you can use the notes you made on your spider diagram. How would you develop and explain the following effects of SDI?

- SDI broke from détente.
- SDI turned the space race into an arms race.
- SDI ensured that the USSR could no longer keep up in the arms race.



examzone Top tip

Structure is really important when answering a question such as the one on page 57 (about how SDI affected the superpowers' relationship). Rather than writing everything you know, break down your answer into three key points. Ensure that you back up each point with examples before moving on to the next point.



