The Berlin Blockade and Cuban Missile Crisis were the direct result of the Soviet Union’s reckless aggression. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Korea and Cuba were merely pawns in a larger ideological struggle between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

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| **Criteria** | **Excellent**  **10-9** | **Very Good**  **8-7** | **Progressing**  **6-5** | **Needs**  **Improvement**  **4-0** | **Score** |
| **Structure & Organization** | Effectively introduces topic  **Thesis statement clearly and effectively identifies your argument & the main points you will discuss**  Well written paragraphs: effective topic and concluding sentences (clear links to thesis), logical and clear connections between ideas, very good use of transition words, smooth flow and excellent clarity  Strong conclusion leaves the reader solidly understanding your thesis and with something to think about | Topic is introduced  Thesis statement  identifies your argument & outlines main points to be discussed  Paragraph development present but not perfected  Conclusion restates your thesis and main points | Somewhat of an introduction .Your position is stated, but main points to be discussed are not clear  Main points are  outlined but position is not clear  Topic and concluding sentences need to be more consistently and directly linked to the thesis  Paragraphs structure and organization needs improvement  Conclusion attempts to restate the thesis and summarize supporting arguments but somewhat unclear or incomplete | No clear  position taken  Supporting arguments not clear nor outlined  Choppy flow – a bit confusing  Much more work needed with respect to answering the question |  |
| **Content**  Evidence  (facts & examples)  Depth & Analysis | **I**nsightful, clearly focused, and well balanced arguments in support of your thesis are included throughout  **A variety of in depth and persuasive historical evidence & terminology** is used consistently and convincingly to support the thesis  **Highly effective explanations clearly show how the evidence supports the thesis – consistent throughout**  Synthesis is well developed with evidence and explanations fully and effectively integrated  In depth and insightful understanding of topic demonstrated | Relevant and focused arguments in support of your thesis are included  Relevant and mostly detailed historical evidence is present in support of the thesis  Explanations show how the evidence supports the thesis, however they need to be clearer and/or more convincing and/or more consistent  Synthesis is present, but not always effectively or consistently integrated  Good understanding demonstrated | An attempt was made to include arguments in support of your thesis, however they need to be more relevant and/or focused and/or more convincing  There is some relevant, accurate historical evidence, but detail is insufficient  Explanations need to better explain how facts and examples support the thesis  Facts may appear to be “listed”  Synthesis is attempted, but underdeveloped | Essay is too narrative or descriptive, you need to present clear arguments in support of your thesis  More accurate and/or specific historical evidence to avoid unsupported generalizations  Explanations and connections to thesis are not clear or not included | **X4=** |