

Sample Answers International Conflicts Analysis

Directions: After reading about an international conflict, answer each question, citing specific evidence from the text that helps support your answer.

Name of Conflict	World War I
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	“Germany and Austria-Hungary, with the later addition of the Ottoman Empire, would come to be called the Central Powers, while Britain, France, and Russia were called the “Allies”.
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“On May 7, 1915, the British passenger liner <i>Lusitania</i> was sunk off the coast of England. 1,198 passengers were killed, including 128 Americans. Americans were enraged at the attack”.</p> <p>“As the war progressed, American public opinion increasingly favored the Allies, and President Wilson began to campaign for American support for the Allies openly. For one, there was a closer shared history between Britain and France”.</p> <p>“In January 1917, the British intercepted a telegram from German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmerman to the German ambassador to Mexico. Zimmerman proposed that Mexico ally with Germany against the United States. In exchange, Zimmerman promised that Germany would help Mexico recover its former territories of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Zimmerman Telegram proved to be the final straw”.</p>
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>War; Diplomacy:</p> <p>“While officially maintaining neutrality, Americans offered aid to the Allies in the form of loans and weapons”.</p> <p>“American entry into the war on the Allies’ side in 1917 proved a crucial turning point towards Allied Victory.”</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“Exhausted, on October 3, 1918, Germany requested an armistice (cease-fire), which, after negotiations, went into effect at 11:00 a.m. on the 11th of November- the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month”.</p> <p>“President Wilson, who hoped that the conflict would prove to be “the war to end all wars,” laid out his vision for the post-war world in a program called the Fourteen Points”.</p>

Name of Conflict	World War II
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	Germany, Italy, & Japan vs. Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“At the outset of the war, the United States maintained neutrality, much as it had at the start of World War I, although it did send financial support and lent military supplies to the Allies”.</p> <p>“On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, hoping to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The next day, Congress declared war on Japan”.</p>
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>War; Diplomacy:</p> <p>“At the outset of the war, the United States maintained neutrality, much as it had at the start of World War I, although it did send financial support and lent military supplies to the Allies”.</p> <p>“U.S. troops fought in North Africa, Europe, and the Pacific”.</p> <p>“Following the war, the Allies set up a series of trials to hold the surviving leaders from Germany and Japan accountable for their crimes”.</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“Germany surrendered in May 1945, ending the war in Europe”.</p> <p>“Japan only surrendered in August [1945] after the United States dropped the first (and thus far only) two atomic bombs ever used in warfare on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”.</p> <p>“ the Allies formed the United Nations, with the goal of again trying to prevent future world wars through diplomacy and peace-keeping efforts”.</p>

Name of Conflict	Korean War
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	“Supporting North Korea were the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. Supporting South Korea were the United States, Great Britain, and the United Nations”.
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“On June 25, 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. The South Korean Army fled and forces from the United Nations came to help out”.</p> <p>“The U.S. Army and United Nations forces were led by U.S. General Douglas MacArthur”.</p>
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>Peacekeeping and Military Action:</p> <p>“President Harry S. Truman developed the policy of “containment” in which the United States pledged military, economic and political assistance to any nation threatened by Soviet supported communist movements”.</p> <p>“The United Nations, created after World War II with the mission of peacekeeping and international cooperation, saw the conflict in Korea as an area where they had the potential to keep the Cold War from going “hot”.</p> <p>“President Harry S Truman did not press for a Congressional declaration of war. Instead, he classified the Korean conflict as UN led “police action,” operating under the authority of the Security Council”.</p> <p>“At first the United Nations and the U.S. were only trying to defend South Korea. However, after the first summer of fighting, President Truman decided to not only defend South Korea but also to try and rid North Korea of communism”.</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	“On July 17, 1953, a treaty ended the war. Both countries would remain independent, and the border would remain at the 38th parallel. However, between the two countries a 2-mile zone was placed as a buffer in hopes to prevent future wars”.

Name of Conflict	Bay of Pigs Invasion
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	Cuban government under Fidel Castro vs. the United States CIA & Cuban exiles
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	“Fidel Castro launched the Cuban Revolution... Castro was a communist allied with the Soviet Union. This caused concern on the part of the United States, who feared that this would give both communism and the Soviet Union a foothold in the Americas from which to spread”
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	Military Action and Espionage: “The CIA began to train these exiles to take their country back. The original idea was that they would sneak into Cuba, gather other dissatisfied Cubans, and launch an uprising against Castro to overthrow him”. “The plan changed, however, to incorporate giving military help to the exiles to invade the island”.
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	“The result for the U.S. was embarrassing; the U.S. government, especially the CIA, looked weak”. “It also seemed to strengthen Castro's government’s popularity within Cuba and caused him to look to the Soviet Union for military protection”.

Name of Conflict	The Cuban Missile Crisis
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	The United States, Cuba, the Soviet Union
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	"...occurred in 1962 when the Soviet Union began to place nuclear missiles in Cuba. The U.S. government refused to allow this, and after 13 tense days and many secret negotiations, the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles".
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	Military Action, Diplomacy, Espionage, and Peacekeeping: "On October 14, 1962 an American spy plane flying over Cuba captured pictures of long-range Soviet missiles in Cuba". "The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended an invasion to the president. Instead, he decided to set up a naval blockade". "Over the next several days the crisis became more intense...Kennedy believed the U.S. would have to invade Cuba". "Although the Soviet Union publicly said they would not back down, they secretly negotiated with the U.S." "The Soviet Union would remove the missiles from Cuba as long as the United States agreed to never invade Cuba again. In secret, the U.S. also had to agree to remove their nuclear missiles from Turkey and Italy".
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	"Although the Soviet Union publicly said they would not back down, they secretly negotiated with the U.S. Eventually the two sides reached an agreement. The Soviet Union would remove the missiles from Cuba as long as the United States agreed to never invade Cuba again. In secret, the U.S. also had to agree to remove their nuclear missiles from Turkey and Italy".

Name of Conflict	Iran Hostage Crisis
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	The United States and Iran (revolutionary government of Ayatollah Khomeini; Iranian students)
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	“On November 1, 1979 Khomeini urged his people to demonstrate against the U.S. On November 4th, thousands gathered around the U.S. embassy in protest. Some of these demonstrators soon stormed the embassy and took it by force. Out of 90 occupants in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, 66 were originally taken captive. The hostages were often shown blindfolded to local crowds and television cameras”.
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>Sanctions, Espionage, Military Action, and Diplomacy:</p> <p>“President Carter decided to use economic pressure in this situation by stopping oil imports from Iran and freezing Iranian bank accounts in the United States”.</p> <p>“ At the same time, he began several diplomatic initiatives to free the hostages, all of which failed”.</p> <p>“ On April 24, 1980, the U.S. attempted a military rescue mission that also failed”.</p> <p>“Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department and CIA worked on a secret ‘exfiltration’ plan for the individuals who escaped the takeover and hostage situation but were still trapped in the country. This plot... was successful, though the United States did not admit its involvement at the time due to fear of retaliation against the remaining hostages”.</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“In the United States, the failure to resolve the crisis contributed heavily to Ronald Reagan's defeat of Jimmy Carter in the 1980 Presidential Election”.</p> <p>“After the election, successful negotiations quickly began. On January 20, 1981, the day of President Reagan's inauguration and after 444 days of captivity, the hostages were freed, and the United States unfroze around \$1 billion in Iranian assets”.</p>

Name of Conflict	Vietnam War
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	"...communist North Vietnam and the democratic government of South Vietnam. The North was supported by the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union, while the South was supported primarily by the United States and France".
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>"The United States kept a watchful eye on the situation in Vietnam as they practiced their policy of "containment" to prevent the spread of communism. When Ho Chi Minh began to succeed against the French, the U.S. became more concerned and began sending aid in 1950".</p> <p>"After the North Vietnamese attacked two U.S. ships in 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution to allow U.S. troops to use force in the area".</p>
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>Diplomacy, Peacekeeping and Military Action:</p> <p>"Still concerned about the spread of communism, the United States supported the southern leader Ngo Dinh Diem who they originally helped get elected. By December 1961, American military advisors made most of the war's military decisions".</p> <p>"While U.S. troops still relied on ground attacks (like the Tet Offensive), they also engaged in numerous bombing campaigns (Operation Rolling Thunder)".</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	"President Richard Nixon began to withdraw troops from what was proving to be a losing battle in July 1969. On January 27, 1973, a ceasefire was negotiated. In April 1975, South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam. The country became the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and remains a communist country today. The Vietnam War was a major setback for the United States during the Cold War".

Name of Conflict	Gulf War I
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	"...between Iraq and a coalition of 32 nations led by the United States including Britain, Egypt, France, and Saudi Arabia".
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>"In late 1990 Iraq invaded the smaller neighboring country of Kuwait. Iraqi president Saddam Hussein stated that the invasion was in response to Kuwait overproduction of oil", which in turn cost Iraq billions of dollars a year due to the resulting fall in oil prices".</p> <p>"Following the invasion, the United Nations Security Council called for Iraq to immediately withdraw from Kuwait. The U.S. also responded by stopping most trade with Iraq".</p> <p>"The UN then set a January 15 (1991) deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait".</p> <p>"With the deadline passed, the United States, which had built an international coalition of nations to support the liberation of Kuwait, launched Operation Desert Storm".</p>
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>Peacekeeping and Military Action:</p> <p>"U.S. troops were stationed in Saudi Arabia, which neighbors both Iraq and Kuwait, to protect Saudi oil fields in case of further Iraqi aggression".</p> <p>"The U.S.-led coalition began with massive aerial attacks to destroy Iraq's military".</p> <p>"The coalition forces then invaded Kuwait and southern Iraq on Feb. 24 and, in just four days, defeated the Iraqis to free Kuwait".</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>"U.S. President George H.W. Bush declared a cease-fire on Feb. 28, by which time most Iraqi forces in Kuwait had either surrendered or fled".</p> <p>"Although the U.S.-led international coalition achieved a military victory in liberating Kuwait, both Kuwait and Iraq suffered enormous property damage, and Saddam Hussein remained in power. Iraq agreed to peace terms but spent the ensuing years making every effort to disobey them, in particular the required weapons inspections by the United Nations. This set the stage for a future confrontation".</p>

Name of Conflict	Gulf War II/Iraq War
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	“The United States led a coalition of about 40 countries” against Iraq
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered multiple terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C. Shortly after these attacks, President George W. Bush accused Iraq of developing weapons that violated UN Security Council Resolution 687, with the president insisting that UN weapons inspectors be allowed full access to Iraq”.</p> <p>“Through late 2002 and into 2003, Iraq reluctantly allowed weapons inspectors back in the country and seemed to be progressing, but President Bush was not satisfied”.</p>
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>Military Action and Peacekeeping:</p> <p>“On March 20th, 2003, the Iraq War began when the United States led a coalition of about 40 countries into an invasion of Iraq. Most of the forces were U.S. and British”.</p> <p>“There were small-scale attacks on the U.S.-led forces after the invasion. Over time, these attacks became constant and increasingly deadly. Through 2004, both U.S.-led forces and Iraqi civilians were being attacked”.</p> <p>“In 2007 there was a massive increase in U.S. forces in Iraq, and the attacks on them decreased”.</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>“The new Iraqi government also took office in 2006, and former President Saddam Hussein was executed for his crimes against Iraq in December”.</p> <p>“In 2008, Iraq could finally start defending itself as the new Iraqi army was formed, and its troops started basic training”.</p> <p>“Beginning in 2009, President Obama began to significantly reduce the number of troops in Iraq as the Iraqi armed forces started controlling the security of their own nation. Congress formally ended its authorization for the troops in November 2011, and the last combat troops left the next month”.</p>

Name of Conflict	Kosovo Conflict
Who was involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	"...took place in the Balkans from 1998 to 1999... between the Yugoslav government and the ethnic Albanian rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)" supported by NATO.
Why was the United States involved in this conflict?	
Evidence from Text	<p>"The Yugoslav government responded with a brutal crackdown, including using paramilitary units accused of war crimes".</p> <p>"NATO intervened in 1999, launching an air campaign against Yugoslav military targets".</p> <p>"The United States played a significant role in the Kosovo War, providing diplomatic, humanitarian, and military support to NATO allies".</p> <p>"President Bill Clinton authorized the air campaign, which was the first time NATO had used military force against a sovereign state without a UN Security Council mandate".</p>
What method(s) did the U.S. use to deal with the conflict (e.g., diplomacy, espionage, humanitarian efforts, military action, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, war)?	
Evidence from Text	<p>Humanitarian, Peacekeeping and Military Action:</p> <p>"Launched a massive humanitarian relief effort to assist refugees".</p> <p>"Established safe zones and protected convoys to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid".</p> <p>"Helped to rebuild infrastructure and essential services".</p> <p>"Kosovo Force (KFOR) was established as a peacekeeping force to help stabilize the situation in Kosovo and prevent further violence".</p> <p>"NATO launched a sustained air campaign against Yugoslav military targets".</p>
What was the outcome of the conflict?	
Evidence from Text	" The conflict resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians and the deaths of thousands of people. The war also had a broader impact on the region, as it intensified nationalist sentiments and strained relations between neighboring countries. Kosovo declared independence in 2008, but its status remains contested, with Serbia and several other countries refusing to recognize its independence".