

Specimen Response for Study Theme 3F

STUDY THEME 3F: GLOBAL SECURITY

Question

To what extent have there been changes in the role and membership of NATO in recent years?

(15 marks)

Response

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was set up after the Second World War to protect Europe from what was then the Communist USSR. More recently this threat is much less due to the break up of the USSR. It has still been agreed that NATO is essential, however it must adapt.

In practice, the NATO alliance depends on the superpower, the USA. It provides NATO with the best military force which is strong enough to take on almost any country in the world. NATO now has the best trained troops, the best tanks and weapons, aircraft carriers and transport planes in the world which makes it unstoppable. NATO's adaptation to the fact the USSR has broken up has also been helped by the fact that Russia now relies on the West for economic help. This has put NATO's mind at ease and has resulted in them cutting the number of troops and tanks they have, now the threat of a large scale battle in Europe has greatly decreased.

NATO is now involved in several different peacekeeping roles. When its forces evicted Iraq out of Kuwait, it could not be called a NATO operation as it was 'out of area'. NATO is now involved in peacekeeping outside the boundaries of its members. An example of this was when the UN asked for help in the former Yugoslavia to bring peace to Bosnia. NATO has also been involved in peacekeeping in Kosovo and Macedonia. More recently NATO forces have been sent to Afghanistan.

The membership of NATO has increased. Several former Communist countries such as Poland, Hungary are now members. All the East European countries want to be in NATO to guarantee them security. Russia is worried about this but is in a Partnership for Peace with NATO.

NATO's original aims are still relevant and NATO is still an essential force even though the USSR no longer exists. Due to NATO having the strongest military force in the world NATO now operates outside its members boundaries and is a worldwide peacekeeping force.

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Developed, exemplified, balanced and analytical answers may refer to:

- ◆ no longer the West's cold-war armed club with eyes on the Fulda Gap
- ◆ emphasis now on specialist forces, mobility and counter-terrorism as opposed to nuclear and large scale armoured forces
- ◆ now in partnership with former potential adversaries
- ◆ still committed to the defence of democracy; now assists in establishing a democratic and prosperous Eastern Europe, and bringing Russia into the European Security system
- ◆ accepts that member states might need to participate in global peacekeeping duties in order to defend their security interests
- ◆ continue to promote stability in Europe by preventing and managing regional conflicts
- ◆ now considers requests from the UN to get involved in UN peacekeeping duties on a case by case basis, both within and without the Euro-Atlantic area
- ◆ view that having lost its focus as a defensive alliance, it has not found a role with which to replace it; it is too unwieldy to fight terrorism, and is little more than the USA's "cleaning lady", if and when required
- ◆ Partnership for Peace preceded admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in 1999, thus increasing membership from 16 to 19
- ◆ admitted seven more members in 2004, including the three former Soviet Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, together with Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania
- ◆ applicant countries include Macedonia, Albania, Croatia and Ukraine
- ◆ implications of increased membership
- ◆ other relevant points.

'Achieve' answers must feature both knowledge and understanding and analysis.

Comments on Specimen Answer to Study Theme 3F

The candidate has identified the original role of NATO and that it changed when the USSR broke up – and that Russia, although concerned about the changing NATO and the inclusion of some of its former republics, is in the Partnership for Peace.

NATO's 'out of area' role is mentioned with good exemplification.

There is no mention of the importance of the role in maintaining democracy and security nor of the continued importance of NATO's role in the defence of Europe. The place of the USA within NATO should have been developed.

The candidate has done enough to achieve a bare pass but to increase the mark there would need to be development of the points made and the addition of the points mentioned above.

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