

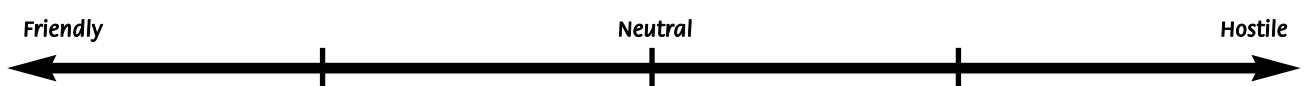
Use this sheet to complete the Focus Task on page 91.

1 Here are some actions taken by the USA. Write each one in the appropriate box below. Add extra boxes if you have other ideas.

- The USA recognised Fidel Castro as leader of Cuba in 1959.
- President Eisenhower authorised the CIA to overthrow Fidel Castro in 1960.
- The CIA funded and supported anti-Castro Cuban exiles.
- The CIA damaged sugar plantations to harm the Cuban economy.
- American media criticised Castro's regime as unpopular.
- President Kennedy supplied arms, equipment and transport for the Bay of Pigs invasion in January 1961.
- Eisenhower banned American trade with Cuba and embargoed the buying of Cuban sugar.
- President Kennedy broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba.
- Kennedy set up the Alliance for Progress which pledged American aid to any Latin American country which followed anti-Communist policies.
- Kennedy had the idea of dropping one-way tickets to the US over Cuba.

Send aid!	Discredit!
Influence!	Invade!
Pressurise!	Destabilise!
Ignore!	Disrupt!

2 Cut out the boxes and place them on a continuum like this.



WORKSHEET 5.2

Why did Khrushchev put nuclear missiles on Cuba?

Use this sheet to help you with the Focus Task on page 93.

- 1 Complete the cards using evidence from pages 92–93.
- 2 Cut out the cards then place them in rank order. Reject any that cannot be supported by the evidence.
- 3 Draw lines to make connections between the reasons.
- 4 Write a paragraph to explain your top reason and any rejected reasons.

To catch up in the arms race



Evidence for:

Evidence against:

Rank:

To launch nuclear war on the USA



Evidence for:

Evidence against:

Rank:

To test Kennedy



Evidence for:

Evidence against:

Rank:

To bargain with the USA



Evidence for:

Evidence against:

Rank:

To defend Cuba



Evidence for:

Evidence against:

Rank:

To strengthen his position in the USSR



Evidence for:

Evidence against:

Rank:

WORKSHEET 5.3

Work in groups. You are advisers to the President. You have to reduce the five options to just two for the President to choose between.

When you have made your decision explain why you have rejected the three you have, using the writing frame on the next page.

Option 1 Do nothing?

For: The Americans still had a vastly greater nuclear power than the Soviet Union. The USA could still destroy the Soviet Union, so – the argument went – the USSR would never use these missiles. The biggest danger to world peace would be to overreact to this discovery.

Against: The USSR had lied about Cuban missiles. Kennedy had already issued his solemn warning to the USSR. To do nothing would be another sign of weakness.



Option 2 Surgical air attack?

An immediate selected air attack to destroy the nuclear bases themselves.

For: It would destroy the missiles before they were ready to use.

Against:

- 1 Destruction of all sites could not be guaranteed. Even one left undamaged could launch a counter-attack against the USA.
- 2 The attack would inevitably kill Soviet soldiers. The Soviet Union might retaliate at once.
- 3 To attack without advance warning was seen as immoral.



Option 3 Invasion?

All-out invasion of Cuba by air and sea.

For: An invasion would not only get rid of the missiles but Castro as well. The American forces were already trained and available to do it.

Against: It would almost certainly guarantee an equivalent Soviet response, either to protect Cuba, or within the Soviet sphere of influence – for example, a take-over of Berlin.



Option 4 Diplomatic pressures?

To get the United Nations or other body to intervene and negotiate.

For: It would avoid conflict.

Against: If the USA was forced to back down, it would be a sign of weakness.

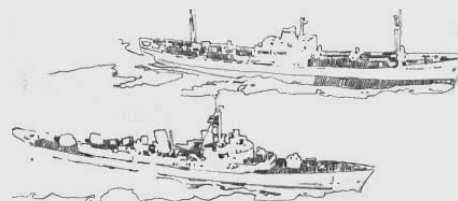


Option 5 Blockade?

A ban on the Soviet Union bringing in any further military supplies to Cuba, enforced by the US navy who would stop and search Soviet ships. And a call for the Soviet Union to withdraw what was already there.

For: It would show that the USA was serious, but it would not be a direct act of war. It would put the burden on Khrushchev to decide what to do next. The USA had a strong navy and could still take the other options if this one did not work.

Against: It would not solve the main problem – the missiles were already on Cuba. They could be used within one week. The Soviet Union might retaliate by blockading Berlin as it had done in 1948.



WORKSHEET 5.3 (continued)

Use this sheet to help you with the Activity on page 94.

Use the writing frame to help you write your recommendations for President Kennedy.

Remember

- President Kennedy does not want to look weak.
- Provoking Cuba and the Soviet Union could lead to retaliation using nuclear weapons.
- Nuclear war could wipe out many American cities and kill many Americans.

From: The Presidential Advisers' Office

To: President John F Kennedy

Mr President,

Having discussed the options put forward by ExComm we have narrowed down the choice to just two possibilities. We recommend that you *consider*

a) _____

We think this could work because: _____

b) _____

This could also be effective because: _____

On the other hand we recommend that you *reject* entirely the following options:

c) _____

because: _____

d) _____

because: _____

e) _____

because: _____

WORKSHEET 5.4

Why did Kennedy act as he did in the Cuban Crisis?

Use this sheet to help you with the Focus Task on page 97.

Choose one of these decisions and write your explanation.

April 1961

Rather than a full-scale invasion he sent a poorly equipped mercenary army to invade Cuba.

The reason why Kennedy did this was _____

This decision escalated/de-escalated the crisis because _____

The evidence to support this is _____

His alternatives were to _____

It was a risky/less risky decision because _____

20 October 1962

He ordered a blockade to prevent Soviet missiles arriving in Cuba.

The reason why Kennedy did this was _____

This decision escalated/de-escalated the crisis because _____

The evidence to support this is _____

His alternatives were to _____

It was a risky/less risky decision because _____

27 October 1962

He delayed an air attack on Cuba.

The reason why Kennedy did this was _____

This decision escalated/de-escalated the crisis because _____

The evidence to support this is _____

His alternatives were to _____

It was a risky/less risky decision because _____

28 October 1962

He trusted Khrushchev's word.

The reason why Kennedy did this was _____

This decision escalated/de-escalated the crisis because _____

The evidence to support this is _____

His alternatives were to _____

It was a risky/less risky decision because _____

WORKSHEET 5.5

Use this sheet to help you with the Focus Task on page 98.

Help Zone

- Cuba remained Communist and was recognised by the United States.
- Cuba remained highly armed but without nuclear weapons.
- The American hardliners who supported an invasion of Cuba were discredited by the crisis.
- Kennedy came out of the crisis more respected.
- Nuclear war was avoided through diplomacy.
- The Soviet Union maintained a useful ally close to America.
- A permanent hotline was established between the USSR and the USA to help relations.

1

The biggest winner from the Cuban Missile Crisis was _____

The main reason for this was _____

Another reason was _____

2

The second placed contestant was _____

because _____

3

The third placed contestant was _____

because _____
