The Cuban Missile crisis

1. Identify, explain and evaluate the various aims of Khrushchev in placing missiles on Cuba
   - Florida is 90 miles off the Southern tip of Florida
   - Gave the Soviets a missile platform
   - Cuba was friendly to the Soviet union
   - It gave the USSR an opportunity to catch up and plug the missile gap between the two powers
   - Cuba became communist in 1959

The defence of Cuba:
   - Khrushchev claimed that the Americans were acting in an imperialist manner
   - America had threatened Cuba with a full military invasion
   - The bay of pigs provoked Cuba into mobilisation
   - Fidel Castro declared the revolution was socialist to get the USSR involved

Bridging the missile gap
   - The USSR claimed to be leading the arms race however the US was the true nuclear power of the time
   - Khrushchev claimed to be producing missiles like sausages
   - The power had moved into the hands of the USA
   - Khrushchev knew the only way to bridge this missile gap was to place missiles on Cuba
   - It would take a decade to close the missile gap between the USA and USSR so Cuba was the only option
   - It would help in aims of wider military planning
   - It would also help reduce military spending of the USSR
   - The USSR made no attempt to camouflage the missiles sites to show everybody they were there

The need for friendship in view of the Chinese situation
   - Historians argue that Khrushchev was using missiles to spread revolution within the South of the Americas
   - Cuba was the only Marxist revolution to take control of a state since China
   - The Sino-Soviet split began in 1962
   - Cuba was another way of showing the USSRs leadership of global communism
   - China had accused the USSR of not backing Marxist movements in the rest of the world
   - Placing missiles in a communist country 90 miles off the coast of America was a huge boost in neutralising anti-Soviet propaganda from the Chinese
   - Missiles would reaffirm the Soviet-Cuba alliance.