**Why was the Berlin Blockade important? 6 mark**

It was the first crisis that happened during the Cold War as it also added to the tension of the Cold War. To the Western Powers it appeared that Stalin was trying to undermine capitalism and starve Berlin into surrender. It amplified the division between West Berlin and East Berlin as Stalin cut off all road and rail links to West Berlin. The blockade showed that the US was not going to surrender West Berlin and the tension of the Cold War was increased. After Berlin, the USA and the USSR realized that they were in a competition for world domination. They began to build up their armies and weapons.

The Berlin Blockade was important as it showed that neither power was willing to go to war with the other as the US responded with a Berlin airlift if the USSR had shot one of these planes down it could have launched a full scale war. It was also a psychological booster for the Western powers as a year later Stalin called off the blockade, show it seemed as they had stood up to Stalin. The Berlin Blockade established the Cold War tensions that would last for the next forty years.