**Truman Doctrine Questions**

In the years after the end of the Second World War, the Soviet Union sought to extend its sphere of influence throughout central Europe not only by actually intervening in other countries (such as Czechoslovakia) but by supporting communist insurgencies in Greece and Turkey. Britain had been sending monetary aid to both nations to prevent communist takeovers, but because its economy had been greatly weakened by the war, it could no longer do so, and it asked the U.S. to assume the financial responsibility. President Truman went to Congress and requested $400 million in aid to the two nations; he also recommended that the U.S. should support free peoples throughout the world who were “resisting takeovers by armed minorities.” This view became known as the “Truman Doctrine.”

**Instructions:**

1. **Go** to the following website ([**http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=175**](http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=175)) and **read** President Truman’s speech to Congress requesting financial assistance for Greece and Turkey.
2. **Answer** the questions below.

**Questions:**

1. Truman addressed a “joint session” of Congress (both the House of Representatives and the Senate) regarding this crisis. What evidence did he give to suggest that Greece was in extreme need of assistance?
2. Why did Truman recommend the United States take on the financial responsibility of aiding Greece, rather than having Britain or the United Nations do so?
3. Truman also made note of the situation in Turkey. According to Truman, how was the situation in Turkey different from that in Greece? In what ways was it the same?
4. Truman notes, “I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free people to work out their own destinies in their own way.” How did Truman suggest the U.S. should assist nations to achieve this goal?
5. What amount did Truman request Congress provide for assistance to Greece and Turkey? What other requests did Truman make of Congress regarding these two nations?
6. Why did Truman contend that it was the United States’ obligation to provide this assistance?
7. What were some comparisons between that Truman gave between the democratic way of life and the communist way of life?

*Democratic way of life*

1.

2.

3.

4.

*Communist way of life*

1.

2.

3.

4.

**Mark Scheme**

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| **IBDP LEVELS** | **A - Knowledge & Understanding** |
| **7** | * Conceptual awareness, insight, and knowledge and understanding which are evident in the skills of critical thinking. * Familiarity with the literature of the subject. |
| **6** | * Detailed knowledge and understanding. * Answers which are coherent, logically structured and well developed. |
| **5** | * A sound knowledge and understanding of the subject using subject-specific terminology. * Answers which are logically structured and coherent but not fully developed. |
| **4** | * A secure knowledge and understanding of the subject going beyond the mere citing of isolated, fragmentary, irrelevant or ‘common sense’ points. * Some ability to compensate for gaps in knowledge and understanding through rudimentary application or evaluation of that knowledge. |
| **3** | * Some knowledge and understanding of the subject |