**Chapter review**

**Short-answer questions**

1. Why did Castro want Soviet missiles in Cuba?

1. Describe how the naval blockade nearly resulted in full-scale war.

1. How was peace finally achieved?

**Analyse the historian’s views**

Thomas G. Paterson is an American historian who criticised the US government’s actions. This is an extract from Paterson’s writings, quoted in *The Australian* on the 30th anniversary of Kennedy’s assassination, 22 November 1993.

*Khrushchev’s decision to deploy missiles in Cuba was reckless. Yet had there been no exile expedition at the Bay of Pigs, no destructive covert activities, no assassination plots, no military manoeuvres and plans, and no economic and diplomatic steps to harass, isolate and destroy the Castro government, there would not have been a Cuban missile crisis.*

1. What is the author’s main argument about the Cuban Missile Crisis?

1. List three examples that the author uses to support his argument.

1. Why is this argument surprising, given the author and the date it was published?

1. Use your own knowledge from this chapter to explain how the negotiations between Kennedy and Khrushchev resolved the crisis.

1. Using your knowledge from this chapter, explain the strengths and weaknesses of Paterson’s point of view.

Extended-response question

Neil Tweedle wrote in *The Age on* 21 February 2008: ‘The United States instituted a naval blockade and prepared to invade. It was a game of nerve and Khrushchev blinked.’

What does Tweedle mean by this and to what extent do you think this is an accurate interpretation of the Cuban Missile Crisis? Provide detailed examples to support your answer.

* You will need to understand the dangerous political dynamics of the Cuban crisis in order to be able to explain why it was a ‘game of nerve’. Be able to provide some examples as to why the situation was so fragile.
* This statement by Tweedle is a very pro-American statement, suggesting that the United States was stronger (‘prepared to invade’) and that Soviet Union President Khrushchev was weaker (because he ‘blinked’).
* In your opinion, what are the true elements of this quote? And what parts, or assumptions, are understated or biased?