**Example**

Model for definition and significance of concepts:

* Clarity
* Description
* Specificity – be as precise as possible
* Examples
* Clear sentences

**Containment**

**Definition**

The brainchild of George F. Kennan, this was an overarching principle guiding American foreign policy at the end of the Second World War. The principle was built on the idea that Soviet expansion and influence must be prevented from spreading to and influencing other nations, the fear being that once a country fell to Communist rule, others would follow (domino theory).

**Significance**

This principle was clearly dominant in the early 50s, 60s, and 70s. Containment took various forms – both military and economic. The United States sent economic aid packages to Western European nations as witnessed in the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine and forged binding military alliances with its Western allies. NATO represented the military commitment of the United States to secure the interests of the Western bloc against any form of Soviet aggression. The NSC-68, a pivotal national security document, emphasized the globalization of containment and the militarization of containment. Globalization of containment implied coming to the defense of allies anywhere and everywhere. Militarization of containment meant increasing defense expenditure, setting up military bases overseas, and pursuing a nuclear weapons program. Guided by containment, American military strategy led to the country’s involvement in several external conflicts abroad (Korea, Cuba, Vietnam).