**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Memorandum by the U.S. and British Chiefs of Staff, American-British Grand Strategy, December 31, 1941: http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/psf/box1/t05uu01.html**

**I. GRAND STRATEGY**

1. At the American– British staff conversations in February 1941 it was agreed that Germany was the main member of the Axis Powers and consequently the Atlantic and European area was considered to be the decisive theatre.

2. Much has happened since February last, but notwithstanding the entry of Japan into the war, our view remains that Germany is still the prime enemy and her defeat is the key to victory. Once Germany is defeated the collapse of Italy and the defeat of Japan must follow.

3. In our considered opinion, therefore, it should be a major principle of American – British strategy that only the minimum of force necessary for the safeguarding of vital interests in other theatres (Pacific theater) should be diverted from operations against Germany.”

**II. ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF OUR STRATEGY**

The essential features of the above grand strategy are as follows…

a. The realization of the victory program of armaments, which first and foremost requires the security of the main areas of war industry.

b. The maintenance of essential communications.

c. Closing and tightening the ring around Germany.

d. Wearing down and undermining German resistance by air bombardment, blockade, subversive activities and propaganda.

e. The continuous development of offensive action against Germany.

f. Maintaining only such positions in the Eastern theatre as will safeguard vital interests…and denying to Japan access to raw materials vital to her continuous war effort while we are concentrating on the defeat of Germany.”

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**Questions:**

1. The Allied forces decided to focus on defeating which Axis Power first?
2. Why, in the grand strategy, are only minimal supplies/support provided to the Pacific theater?
3. By what means did the Allied powers plan to “wear down” German resistance?