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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
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## Level 2 History, 2017

### 91234 Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society

2.00 p.m. Tuesday 14 November 2017  
Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.	Examine, in depth, how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.	Comprehensively examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

**Achievement**

**TOTAL**

**04**

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

## INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay, using the essay task below, on ONE significant historical event that has affected New Zealand society.

Your essay must include an introduction and a conclusion, and use detailed supporting evidence.

You should provide context for your discussion by adding a detailed paragraph(s) describing the historical event and its background.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

## ESSAY TASK

Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealanders. You must consider one or more of the following impacts:

- social
- political
- economic
- strategic/military.

Historical event: The Vietnam War

## PLANNING

Description of the historical event that affected New Zealanders

- Political context - P
- Pressure on NZ
- NZ decision to commit forces -
- NZ involvement in V.N - M
- Social movement - protests - S
- Vietnam veterans - M
- Independent foreign policy - P

Effect(s) on New Zealanders (social, political, economic, strategic/military)

P. C

- Cold War
- Domino theory
- Background of Vietnam
- First Indo-China War: 1946 - 1954

D.B.P  
↑

P. O. NZ

- Shift from Britain
- ANZUS in ~~late~~ early 50s
- SEATO in early 60s
- "Forward defence"

NZ. D. T. C. F

- Holyoake wanted to be independent
- Needed US protection
- SEATO and ANZUS formed ob
- 1963 - M.T, 1964 - E, 1965 - 161st battery

NZ. I. I. V

- Guerilla Warfare
- Search and destroy
- 1968 peak involvement - 548
- 3200 in total
- 37 dead
- 187 wounded
- By Dec 1972 all were gone by Vietnamiza

Examination/Evidence

S. M. P

- 'Baby Killer'
- Shift after Tet - 1969
- Extensive media coverage
- Young, counter culture
- Sparked protest movement
- ↳ M.L.R. SB1981

V. V

- Viet Cong - unseen
- Poor treatment of them
- Helen Clark's apology 2008
- Just doing their job
- Agent Orange

Independent F P

- Ministry of Trade and Foreign Affairs
- More UN involvement
- No longer needed help
- Suspended from ANZUS in 1985
- Nuclear free NZ in 1987
- Returned in 2010

Begin your essay here:

The Vietnam War impacted New Zealand in a political, social and military way as we as a nation began to shift into an independent country, this all occurred during a controversial period in human history.

In 1945 two new super powers emerged: The USA (America) and the USSR (Soviet Russia) with Britain and Germany being weakened from WWII. These two countries rarely agreed on anything and this was due to their opposing ideologies and political beliefs. Capitalism held the thought that your dreams would come true if you could earn enough money while Communism (as put forward by Karl Marx) would mean equality for all. Although both never truly delivered on their ideas the literal divide between the two can be presented in the Berlin Wall: A happy and fruitful life in the West while hard working but stable in the East. This gave America a fear of the spread of Communism and from this General Eisenhower proposed the "Domino Theory" in the 1950s. It proclaimed that one by one countries would fall to Communism in the East starting from Vietnam and ending up in New Zealand. Vietnam had a history of being invaded. Throughout various Chinese dynasties Vietnam had fought the Chinese. In the 1880s Vietnam was colonised by France and <sup>its people</sup> forced to farm rubber in terrible

Conditions. During WWII after the surrender of France Germany gave Vietnam to Japan who provided even worse conditions for the Vietnamese people. After the war Ho Chi Minh proclaimed independence however the French military were sent back to reclaim its colony. From 1946 to 1954 the first Indo China War ended with the defeat of the French in 1954. It is noted that the Communists were supplying the Viet Minh while America supplied the French.

New Zealand's position after WWII was in a state of flux as we realised Britain would no longer be able to protect us. From this we signed the ANZUS (Australia New Zealand United States) pact in the 50s which gave us the protection we needed in return with cooperation with the US. In response to the domino theory New Zealand was one of the many countries that signed the SEATO agreements in the 1960s which was a pact to stop the spread of Communism in the east. In New Zealand's eyes this was a "Forward defence" policy ~~and to stopping Vietnam~~ meaning they would fight to stop Communism before it reached our ~~border~~ country. With both ANZUS and SEATO signed New Zealand now had a moral obligation to fight with the US against Eastern Communism.

Our Prime Minister at the time was Keith Holyoake and he had begun to make New Zealand more independent by the time of the Second Indo-China War. When America needed support Holyoake was reluctant to get involved in the war of the time however in order to maintain the protection of the United States combined with the obligation formed from SEATO and ANZUS he had little choice but to help America to maintain its political ties. He began by sending a small civilian medical team to a southern province of Vietnam in 1963, here they treated patients and taught the Vietnamese. This was still not enough and so in 1964 Holyoake sent in a non-combat engineer team. He knew this wasn't enough and so in 1965 America used previous agreements to strong arm Holyoake into sending in the 161st battery into Vietnam. These trained New Zealand troops faced a long and hard campaign in Vietnam. This had a military impact on New Zealand as we were now sacrificing more lives on foreign shores.

\* However Holyoake described them as "wielding nothing more dangerous than scalpels".

Although New Zealand's military involvement in Vietnam was relatively small, the troops that were deployed fought in vicious and unforgiving terrain. They were sent on search and destroy missions, this involved dropping into a hot zone and killing as much of the Viet Cong as possible. The year 1968 was when New Zealand had its peak involvement with around 450 troops in Vietnam. Across the seven years fighting in Vietnam 3200 New Zealanders were involved with each holding their own memories and experiences. In the later parts of the war Richard Nixon began to implement "Vietnamization" this involved slowly withdrawing allied troops from Vietnam while financially supplying South Vietnam. By Dec 1972 every New Zealand soldier, medic and engineer had returned home to a very different country than when they had left. The public protests had begun.

When the 161st landed back in New Zealand and prepared for their parade the experienced protests that would significantly impact their lives. These men that had fought were baraded by protestors yelling "Baby Killer" and "Muderer" as well as throwing red paint over these unprepared soldiers.

The reason this was unexpected was up until the Tet offensive in 1968 the general public had been pro-war. It was only with the extensive raw war footage shown by news networks directly into family homes that people saw war for its harsh reality. Around 90% of TV at the time was on the Viet Minh's Tet offensive which saw America caught off-guard. The young counter culture often formed these protests along with forming groups such as the progressive youth movement to help with this. This had a profound social impact on NZ culture as with more than 35,000 they made a difference. From this more protests began to take shape, including the Maori land rights and the 1981 Springbok tour. These protests however negatively affected the soldiers from Vietnam who were just doing their jobs.

The Viet Cong were an unseen enemy who could at any moment ambush a unit. The Vietnamese jungle was so dense they could be standing 5 metres in front of you and be invisible. This along with the multitude of trap pits, spikes, mines, tunnels and camouflage made fighting in Vietnam a constant battle against fear. When soldiers returned many suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and were not given the proper treatment. The Labour government at the

time were more focused on their new foreign policy. Because of this in 2008 Prime Minister Helen Clarke extended a formal apology for the way the veterans were treated. Despite this the soldiers that had fought had been exposed to chemicals such as Agent Orange and because of this their lives were significantly worsened.

After withdrawing from the war the Labour government began a new independent policy which would significantly impact our country politically. A new Ministry of Trade and Foreign Affairs was implemented and New Zealand began taking a much more active role in the United Nations. We would welcome help but no longer rely on other countries for protection, this had a significant impact on our military as we began to expand it. We took an anti nuclear stance and because of this were suspended from ANZUS in 1985. New Zealand would officially become nuclear free in 1987. Cooperation with America returned in 2010.

In conclusion the Vietnam war set our social standing, changed our political policies and was directly involved in the increase to our military. The reason it had such a significant impact on all these was due to the nature of which New Zealand entered the conflict.

Grade	Explanation
A4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explains the event and background, including New Zealand's search for security. However, this is quite lengthy in relation to the entire discussion, and nature of essay task.</li> <li>Attempts to link discussion, or content knowledge, to the essay task. Reference to impacts, for example political. However, links to impacts can be heightened. This would aid essay structure and focus.</li> <li>Describes some relevant ideas. Including future impacts of event. Overall, the evidence is limited and requires further depth.</li> <li>Writes in an essay structure.</li> </ul>