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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.**

Excellence

TOTAL

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**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

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

Examination/Evidence

Begin your essay here:

The Vietnam War, which New Zealand<sup>(NZ)</sup> was involved in from 1964 to 1972, was a significant historical event that had short and long-term political, social and military effects on New Zealanders. The controversial nature of the war resulted in ~~the~~ short-term political significance <sup>as</sup> citizens ~~believed~~ believed that the government's intentions were for the benefit of foreign policy. The anti-Vietnam War protest movement was a significant short-term social impact, and New Zealand troops suffered various physical and psychological ~~in~~ effects of the war. The Vietnam War holds great long-term political significance as it resulted in a very significant political shift which has impacted society today. New Zealand's ongoing reflection demonstrates the lasting social significance that this violent war had.

The Vietnam War was a lengthy, expensive conflict that lasted from 1955 to 1975 and resulted in the ~~the~~ defeat of the South Vietnamese by the Northern Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Over three million people died, including 58,000 American soldiers. The Geneva Conference <sup>in</sup> 1954 divided Vietnam at the 17th Parallel into North and South. The Vietnam War took place during the Cold War, a proxy war between ~~the~~ superpowers America and Russia, who took ~~and~~ sides in smaller conflicts such as the Vietnam War, in which America supported South Vietnam. America entered the Vietnam War in 1955, due to concern about the 'domino theory', an idea that if one country fell to communism, then so too would its neighbours very quickly. The war escalated in 1964 after the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution gave United States (U.S.) President ~~by~~ Lyndon Baines Johnson "wider war-making

powers", and ~~Operation~~ Operation Rolling Thunder, regular bombing raids, ensued in February 1965. America and North Vietnam signed peace agreements in 1973, however war persisted between North and South Vietnam until 1975, when Northern forces captured Saigon. During the brutal warfare, an estimated two million Vietnamese were killed, three million wounded and twelve million forced to become refugees. Vietnam's infrastructure and economy <sup>were</sup> ~~also~~ also greatly damaged, and reconstruction ensued slowly. The Vietnam War was a significant historical event that greatly impacted all involved and caused controversy <sup>for</sup> ~~the~~ New Zealanders due to its horrific nature and the government's contentious intentions.

The short-term political significance of the Vietnam War was the NZ government's ~~a~~ controversial intentions, as citizens accused authorities of prioritising international relations over lives and resources. The ANZUS Treaty was signed in 1951 by Australia, NZ and the U.S. as America sought allies in the Cold War and were concerned about communism. The South-East Asia Treaty Organisation was established in 1954 to stop the domino theory and improve economic conditions in South-East Asia. Countries involved, including NZ, the U.S., Australia and Britain were only required to ~~commit~~ "commit militarily in the event of a communist threat" if doing so was according to the "constitutional <sup>process</sup> ~~process~~" of their government. ~~the~~ ~~the~~ NZ was mostly unthreatened by communism due to geographical distance, so both ANZUS and SEATO benefited its foreign policy by granting collective security. The government's initial decision to commit troops was not of great significance to New Zealanders.

shown by the ~~was~~ large scale support for President Johnson's visit in 1966. The small scale nature of NZ's involvement and lack of conscription laws meant that commitment was generally accepted. However, popular disgust soon increased as the violent nature of the war became evident, and citizens accused the government of ~~commit~~ succumbing to American pressure to commit to an "unwinnable" civil conflict. The ~~government's~~ Vietnam War held short-term political significance for <sup>New Zealanders</sup> ~~NZ~~ as the government was believed by some to be wasting lives and resources on international relations.

NZ's ~~its~~ medical, humanitarian and combat contributions to the Vietnam War were on a far smaller scale than the ~~the~~ other World Wars. Deploying approximately 3,500 ~~the~~ personnel, NZ endured only 37 casualties. The first combat forces were sent in July 1965, with the peak of commitment occurring in November 1968, with 550 personnel serving at one time. Withdrawal began ~~in 1970~~ in November 1970, with the Royal NZ Air Force planes last to depart in February 1972. Present in every military level except command, Maori contributed significantly to NZ's involvement, and veteran Ian Thorpe ~~to~~ claimed this mixing of ethnicities to be "excellent." Furthermore, historian James Belich ~~describes~~ describes NZ's involvement in the Vietnam War to have been a "token gesture" as it was mostly to retain the ANZUS promise. NZ forged a new path by engaging in an overseas war for the first time without Britain, an early sign of "decolonisation", in Belich's view, from Britain, and contributing to NZ eventually asserting itself as a separate

power. NZ contributed medical, humanitarian and combat forces to the Vietnam War, however this was minimal and served to maintain political agreements.

The anti-Vietnam War protest movement in NZ was a significant short-term consequence ~~of the~~ as citizens were disgusted by the war's violence and demanded that NZ develop more independence. The protesters' initial apathy was shown when U.S. President Johnson was welcomed into Wellington in 1966. However the protest movement ~~escalated~~ ~~after~~ gained momentum after the 1964 escalation and horrific war images were broadcast into homes, ~~for~~ such as the 1968 My Lai Massacre in which American soldiers ~~the~~ slaughtered Vietnamese villagers. In 1969, flour, eggs and red paint was thrown on a visiting U.S. ~~the~~ politician, and the Progressive Youth Movement resisted the Auckland City Council who banned Albert Park demonstrations. On his 1970 goodwill tour, U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew was met in NZ by anguished protesters who continued to shout anti-war slogans outside his hotel, requiring 200 police officers who used "excessive force." Frustrated citizens were angry about the government seemingly agreeing to commit to Vietnam for America's benefit in the Cold War. The anti-Vietnam War protesting was a significant short term ~~consequence~~ impact on NZ, ~~to of the Vietnam War~~, and contributed to the Vietnam War's status as the most controversial war in NZ history.

New Zealand troops suffered negative ~~a~~ short and long-term

impacts of the Vietnam War, including toxic exposure, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and disrespectful homecomings. The U.S. used Agent Orange, a powerful herbicide, to destroy Northern forest cover during the war. Short-term health issues arising from toxic exposure include skin disease, nervous system dysfunction and heart disease. In the long-term it can cause deformation in offspring and an increased cancer risk. Furthermore, many NZ troops suffered from PTSD, derived from combat stress, ~~po~~ toxic exposure and abusive violence. Alcoholism, drug addiction, suicide and divorce rates were high amongst veterans. A significant long-term <sup>militar</sup> ~~social~~ impact of the Vietnam War the negative homecomings that NZ troops received. Instead of appreciation for their military efforts, troops were met with a backlash of judgement from anti-Vietnam War protesters. Auckland's official homecoming parade in May 1971 was ruined by the throwing of paint and flour, leading troops to feel shunned by their country. The negative consequences suffered by NZ veterans of the Vietnam War contributed to ~~the~~ NZ's difficulty in coming to terms with its involvement in the violent war.

The Vietnam War holds great long-term political significance for <sup>New Zealanders</sup> ~~the~~ as new leaders emerged to shape a more independent foreign policy. ~~The~~ During the war, the National Party advocated for preserving NZ's international relations and containing the threat of communism through forward defense. The Labour Party argued for NZ's independence, promoting only humanitarian aid be sent to Vietnam, prioritising NZ itself over international relations. However,

in 1969 Labour ~~publically~~ publicly changed its stance to supporting NZ's complete withdrawal from Vietnam, significantly marking the first time a political party opposed the government. In his book ~~"New Zealand in the Twentieth Century"~~ "New Zealand in the Twentieth Century", historian Paul Moon wrote, "the peace movement soon grew to become a public voice directed at all of NZ's foreign policy." Labour politicians Helen Clark and Tim Shadbolt were both former anti-Vietnam War protesters who helped to direct NZ towards a more independent foreign policy when Labour was elected into government in 1972. NZ displayed independence in its anti-nuclear movement when it halted U.S. trading ships from entering the country, and in 1987 announced itself a nuclear-free zone. The Broomfield Act ended the ANZUS Treaty, which, after reaching a peak of political ties with America during the Vietnam War, reduced NZ's status with the U.S. from "ally" to "friend" as it remains today. The Vietnam War holds long-term significance for NZ as it produced a more independent foreign policy due to new leaders emerging from the ~~po~~ anti-Vietnam War protest movement to ~~attract~~ ~~attract~~ attract widespread support for ~~indep~~ ~~to~~ independence.

The long-term social and political significance of the Vietnam War is due to increased reflection upon involvement, and the more independent political direction going forward. After ~~feeling the need to~~ NZ Vietnam veterans felt the need <sup>by the government</sup> to organise their own parade. Tribute Of <sup>by the government</sup> was established to officially recognize their service, which took place in Wellington 2008. ~~Helen Clark~~ Prime Minister Helen Clark's

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Grade	Explanation
E8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explains the event and background in a concise manner. This paragraph is logically placed in the discussion and adds some context.</li> <li>• The discussion reflects the weighting and focus of the essay task, namely the effect on New Zealanders.</li> <li>• Clearly links content knowledge to the essay task. Reference to various impacts. Progresses this to include short / long-term and positive / negative.</li> <li>• Makes insightful links, judgements and in particular conclusions.</li> <li>• Comprehensively examines the impacts and the links to the event.</li> <li>• Effectively uses explanation and evidence to support and sustain key ideas.</li> <li>• Various contexts, for example macro / micro, past / present.</li> <li>• Writes with cogency, conviction and authority, clearly signposting key ideas that link back to the essay task.</li> </ul>