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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 History 2023

### 91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Examine, in depth, causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

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

**Write ONE essay in this booklet.**

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

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (DO NOT WRITE). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

High Merit

TOTAL 06

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event, using the essay question below.

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

You should provide context for your discussion by adding a concise paragraph describing the historical event.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

**ESSAY QUESTION**

How did TWO significant causes shape your chosen historical event?

Historical event:

Kristallnacht

Concl:  
- initially to get Jews to emigrate  
- first time escalating 3<sup>rd</sup> violence → Final Solution

## PLANNING

### 1: Antisemitism in the Third Reich (1933-38)

- "The Longest Hatred" antisemitic tropes → blood libels, control the gov and money, killed Jesus
- Hitler comes to power 1933 → banned from civil service, banned from journalism
- Propaganda Nazi and independent (Der Stürmer)
- 1933 1 April boycott
- 1935 Nuremberg laws solidify N ideals of race into law
- 1936 Olympics Berlin, Law for overcrowding in schools → know when to take it down
- refer to Q

### 2: Assassination of Ernst vom Rath

- Polenaktion → 1st cause causing 2nd → K could have happened without 2 because of so much antisemitism
- Goebbels used opportunity to say Jewish plot
- escalation of rhetoric to state <sup>enacted</sup> violence
- refer to Q

### Crucial:

9-10 Nov 1938

7 Nov vom Rath shot, 9th died → N leaders meeting to celebrate Beer Hall Putsch anni

- 7,500 windows smashed - name
- Goebbels (propaganda) Jewish plot
- SS, SA, Gestapo, state police → not in uniform
- Firefighters instructed only to intervene when "Aryan" businesses threatened
- Mostly centres with many Jews (Berlin Vienna)
- 30,000 Jewish men → Dachau, Buchenwald
- 91 reported deaths

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 4-5 pages. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

How did 2 significant causes shape your chosen historical event?  
Begin your essay here:

Kristallnacht was a Nazi pogrom from the evening of 9 November to the next day on the 10th. It was shaped by two significant causes: the long-term cause of antisemitism in the Third Reich from 1933-1938 and the short-term trigger cause of the assassination of Ernst vom Rath.

In order to evaluate the causes of Kristallnacht it is necessary to know more about the event. On 7 November Herschel Grynszpan (a Polish Jew) shot a Nazi secretary, Ernst vom Rath. This was motivated by the Nazis expelling Grynszpan's parents from Germany along with other Polish Jews, leaving them between two countries that refused to take them. Vom Rath died two days later on 9 November, a day where the Nazi leadership was meeting to celebrate the attempted coup the Beer Hall Putsch. Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels used this to incite the Kristallnacht pogrom, instructing the SA, SS, Gestapo and state police to begin rioting out of uniform - so it would appear as spontaneous outrage from the citizens. 7,500<sup>Jewish</sup> shop windows were smashed, giving the event its name (crystal night) for all the broken glass. Jewish businesses, homes, synagogues and even cemeteries were targeted and 30,000

Jewish men were taken to concentration camps like Dachau and Buchenwald. 91 people are officially reported to have died, although the total number could be much higher. The pogrom took place throughout Nazi territory, and much of the violence was concentrated to cities like Berlin and Vienna, where there was a large Jewish population.

The first significant cause of Kristallnacht was the long term cause of antisemitism in the Third Reich. ~~The~~ Antisemitism is known as "The Longest Hatred" as it has remained prevalent in Europe with <sup>antisemitic</sup> tropes like and conspiracy theories that Jews control the government and flow of money. When Hitler came to power in 1933, the Nazi party built upon pre-existing bigotry. One of the first antisemitic laws banned Jews from working in civil service jobs, inspired by hundreds of years of antisemitism. Jews were also banned from working as journalists, which allowed Nazi propaganda as well as independent newspapers like Der Stürmer to ~~of~~ more effectively spread antisemitic propaganda. In 1935, the Nazis solidified their ideas about race into law with the Nuremberg Laws, preventing Jews and "Aryans" from marrying and classifying anyone with at least 1 ~~grand~~ Jewish grandparent as Jewish. They wanted to claim that Jews in their

country were not actually German, promoting extreme nationalism. The Nazis knew how to tone down their rhetoric to avoid global scrutiny, like when a law preventing Jewish students in universities was renamed to be about "preventing overcrowding in schools," and when at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin all signs denoting Jewish businesses were taken down for the duration of the games.

Nazi antisemitism was the most significant cause of Kristallnacht. Without creating such an antisemitic state <sup>and</sup> radicalising much of its citizenry a hate crime on the sheer scale of Kristallnacht could not have occurred. Years of propaganda shaped the attitudes of the German populace, leading to them either enjoying the violence, remaining indifferent to it, or being scared to speak out against it.

The second cause of Kristallnacht was the one that triggered it: the assassination of Ernst vom Rath.

Grynzspan was a 17 year old living in Paris when he walked into the German Embassy and shot the first Nazi he saw. He was motivated by Polenaktion (the expulsion of Polish Jews), meaning the assassination would never have happened without Nazi antisemitism (the first cause). It is likely that if Grynzspan never assassinated vom Rath, something else would have prompted a Kristallnacht-like event.

The assassination itself was inconsequential to the Nazis, and

used only as an excuse to enact extreme violence against German and Austrian Jews. Goebbels used the opportunity to say that Croyzspan was part of a secret Jewish plot, allowing the escalation of rhetoric to state enacted violence when it had only existed before as antisemitic propaganda and laws. The assassination of Ernst vom Rath shaped Kristallnacht by allowing it to happen, but any event of a similar nature (motivated by Nazi antisemitism) could have been used to trigger a pogrom like Kristallnacht.

The two significant causes <sup>that shaped</sup> of ~~Nazi antisemitism~~ <sup>Kristallnacht</sup> were Nazi antisemitism and the assassination of Ernst vom Rath, with the first cause being itself a cause for the second. While Nazi rhetoric had initially tried to expel Jews through forced emigration, Kristallnacht was the first time an escalation of violence occurred, which would essentially lead to the "Final Solution" and the genocide of 6 million European Jews. These causes are of great significance as without them, Kristallnacht would never have happened.





## Merit

**Subject:** History

**Standard:** 91233

**Total score:** 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
1	M6	While the candidate examined two causes of the 1938 Kristallnacht, anti-Semitism, and the assassination of Ernst vom Rath, in depth and with detailed supporting evidence, there was not sufficient insight shown to gain a higher grade. For example, in their explanation of anti-Semitism, the candidate could have evaluated the significance of the shift in anti-Semitism from a religious basis, to the more powerful pseudo-scientific basis of the 1935 Nuremberg Laws.