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92027



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 1 History 2025

92027 Demonstrate understanding of perspectives on a historical context

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of perspectives on a historical context.	Explain perspectives on a historical context.	Examine perspectives on a historical context.

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

You should attempt ALL parts of the question 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 2–7 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). 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.

Excellence

TOTAL 08

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INSTRUCTIONS

Use ONE historical context you have studied to answer the question.

In your answers, you should (where appropriate):

- consider the beliefs, motivations, and experiences that may have shaped perspectives on your historical context
- address perspectives from BOTH the immediate and wider historical context
- include historical evidence.

QUESTION

Historical context: April 3rd 1963 Birmingham Campaign

(a) Identify an individual or group from your chosen historical context. What was their **perspective**?

Individual or group:

B I U     

Theophilus Eugene "Bull" Connor

Perspective:

B I U     

Theophilus Eugene "Bull" Connor was **not in favour** of the 1963 Birmingham Campaign happening. Theophilus Eugene Connor, most commonly known as "Bull" Connor, was a well known political figure in Birmingham, Alabama. He served as Commissioner for Public Safety, and was an ardent segregationist who had built his political career off of resisting integration. Serving as a Commissioner on the city board from 1937-1954 and 1958-1963. He was evidently popular with the white residents of Birmingham for his extremely segregationist policies, with 22 years of service on the city board.

As Commissioner for Public Safety, he was in control of the police and fire services, as well as other public properties and services. In this role he upheld the city's segregation ordinances to keep Birmingham, as Martin Luther King Jr put it, "*The most segregated city in America.*"

In the **immediate context**, in regards to the Birmingham Campaign he viewed the protesters as "*nigger troublemakers*" who were "*coming into Birmingham to disturb the peace*", showing that he considered Birmingham's racist policies the norm and showing that he thought of the protesters as well as the Campaign as a simple nuisance to get rid of.

Considering the **wider historical context**, in the years prior to 1963 there were multiple civil rights victories. From the 24th May 1954 Brown v Board of Education ruling, where 'separate but equal' segregation in public schools was declared unconstitutional, to the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycotts where protesters successfully pushed the U.S Supreme Court to desegregate buses all around the country, Bull Connor was against these civil rights wins, refusing to comply in Birmingham. In fact, on the 24th of October 1961, federal judge Hobart Grooms specifically ordered Birmingham's public parks and playgrounds to be desegregated. Instead of following a federal order to desegregate, Bull Connor closed the parks and playgrounds too, in order to avoid integrating the Black and White communities of Birmingham.

Another point in the **wider historical context** is that Bull Connor was born in 1897 in Selma, Alabama. It was during a time when Jim Crow laws were still prevalent, and the concepts of white supremacy and forced segregation were deeply embedded into Southern society. Growing up around laws of white supremacy and segregation normalised those views for him, giving him beliefs to follow into his adult life. His racist beliefs are shown in a 1963 quote by him: "*You can't whip these birds if you don't keep them separate. I learned that in Birmingham. You have got to keep the white and the black separate.*"

(b) How did at least ONE **action** taken by the individual or group in (a) demonstrate their perspective?

B I U ☰ ▾ ☷ ▾ ↶ ↷ ?

One action taken by Bull Connor to **demonstrate his perspective** on the Birmingham Campaign was the use of violence and force against peaceful student protesters during the Children's Crusade.

As the Birmingham Campaign approached the start of May, it was clear that the protests were stalling. With most Black Birmingham residents already in jail from joining the protest, the organisers were running out of demonstrators to partake in marches and sit-ins. It was clear to Martin Luther King Jr of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Fred Shuttlesworth of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) that their strategy to fill the jails would eventually fail, and the Campaign would die out, like what happened to M.L.K's 1960 protest in Albany, Georgia. In order to keep the protests going, James Bevel of the SCLC came up with the idea of a 'Children's Crusade', where students would leave school to demonstrate in the streets. It was a major success, with over 1000+ students ranging from 6-18 years old skipping school to march downtown to speak with the mayor. Connor had been previously using the tactics police used in Georgia 1960, of non-violently arresting protesters in order to not attract media attention. Suddenly, he found himself overwhelmed with countless children demonstrating in the street, and ordered more arrests. With 700+ arrests on the first day, the protests were still going and it was clear to Connor his previous strategy wouldn't work. Children would be released from the crowded jails, and simply go straight to rejoining the marches.

And so on the 6th of May 1963, Connor deployed firemen with powerful fire hoses, police dogs, police officers armed with batons, and even an armoured car to stop the large processions of demonstrators. Ordering the firemen to aim their hoses into crowds of children, they would be knocked off of their feet by the powerful stream of water and be sent tumbling into walls, the ground, and each other, leaving many bruised and bleeding. Police dogs also bit into protesters and officers hit them with batons, causing countless injuries. This violent counterattack by Bull Connor **displayed his perspective** by showing he was willing to use all means necessary to defend segregation and his racist way of life, even if it meant brutalizing young student protesters in front of countless reporters.

(c) Identify a different individual or group from your chosen historical context. What was their **perspective** and how does it differ from the perspective identified in (a)?

Individual or group:

B I U ☰ ▾ ☷ ▾ ↶ ↷ ?

U.S President John F. Kennedy

Perspective:

B I U ☰ ▾ ☷ ▾ ↶ ↷ ?

U.S President John F. Kennedy was **in favour** of the Birmingham Campaign.

Prior to the Birmingham campaign, U.S President John F. Kennedy was not as willing to make major public moves to boost the Civil Rights Movement. This was due to not wanting to alienate Southern Democrats, who were in favour of segregation and disliked federal intervention in their southern States. This was because they were in control of key Congressional committees at the time, and they could either help Kennedy's other government policies pass smoothly, or they could hold them up in protest instead. As the 1964 elections were approaching, he also needed political stability in order to secure a 1964 reelection.

But considering the **wider historical context**, he was sympathetic to the civil rights movement, as shown during the Presidential Election of 1960. When Martin Luther King Jr was arrested during a protest in Georgia in 1960, he was originally detained for trespassing. But after standing trial in court, he was instead sentenced to 4 months of hard labour at a prison camp for a misdemeanor traffic charge, and Blacks across the country were in uproar. Presidential Candidate at the time, John F. Kennedy contacted Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver and started negotiating with him. Eventually securing his release, Kennedy showed he would support civil rights when facing injustice.

But in the **immediate historical context**, with the televised scenes of brutal police violence coming out of Birmingham, Kennedy immediately made statements to the press calling it "horrific" and declaring segregation a "moral crisis and a national issue". He sent 3,000 federal troops to a nearby base, putting them on standby to come into Birmingham to protect citizens and keep order if the situation continued. Returning to the **wider historical context**, the Campaign took place in the midst of the Cold War. Foreign ties were seen as paramount to countering the Soviet Union's influence, and with nations across the world seeing what was unfolding in Birmingham, international pressure was mounting on the Kennedy administration. This is shown in a quote from him on 8 May 1964: "*The situation in Birmingham is damaging the reputation of Birmingham and the United States.*" Highlighting the wider impact it had on the USA as a whole, diplomatic influence at the time was seen as a priority for national security, and this motivated Kennedy to act swiftly and sharply against the police brutality occurring.

This is **clearly different** to Bull Connor's perspective, who started and encouraged the violence in the first place. While Kennedy publicly denounced the brutality occurring and made steps to stop it, Connor instigated the situation by deploying extreme force against non-violent protesters. This contrast shows the differing goals of the two individuals, with one advocating for segregation and one advocating against it.

(d) How did at least ONE **action** taken by the individual or group in (c) demonstrate their perspective and how does it differ from the action(s) identified in (b)?

B *I* U     

One action taken By U.S President John F. Kennedy to **demonstrate his perspective** on the Birmingham Campaign was the *Address to Nation on Civil Rights* on 11th June 1964.

In this speech, he highlighted to the American public his view on segregation in Birmingham. This is shown in a quote taken from his speech: "*The events in Birmingham and elsewhere have so increased the cries for equality that no city, or State, or legislative body can prudently choose to ignore them.*" The quote also highlights how the increasing pressure from local protests had forced segregation into a national issue, raising the fact that it has become an unmissable issue for everyone across the country. In the speech, he also stresses his support for desegregation, and the condemning of racial violence across the nation. Kennedy backs his words by promising to improve civil rights in America, by supporting new legislation. This can be shown the in the following quote: "*I ask the Congress of the United States to act, to make a commitment that they have not fully done in this century, for the proposition that race has no place in American law or life.*"

This support for civil rights legislation culminated in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which was passed on the 2nd of July 1964, posthumously by President Lyndon B. Johnson after Kennedy's assassination. The Civil Rights Act helped increase personal liberties for Blacks across the U.S by outlawing discrimination in employment, housing, schools, and federally funded programs, and among other things. It also prohibited segregation in public places, such as restaurants and theatres. This helped address some of the main points of the Birmingham Campaign, further demonstrating his support not only for the campaign but also for civil rights as a whole. This is **clearly different** from Bull Connor's action. While Kennedy used his political power on a national level to promote desegregation and push laws improving civil rights, Bull Connor used his local political power to enforce segregation ordinances and uphold and strengthen Birmingham's racist way of life. These actions directly clashed with each other, in the pursuit of two completely opposing goals.

Excellence

Subject: History

Standard: 92027

Total score: 8

Grade score	Marker commentary
E8	The candidate wrote a comprehensive discussion of perspectives and actions, in relation to their historical context: April 3 rd , 1963 Birmingham Campaign. The response was clearly laid out and organised, enabling the candidate to convey their depth of knowledge. The wider historical context was embedded in the discussions for each part.