



National Certificate of Educational Achievement
TAUMATA MĀTAURANGA Ā-MOTU KUA TĀEA

Exemplar for Internal Achievement Standard History Level 2

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Achievement Standard 91230

Examine an historical event or place that is of significance to New Zealanders

An annotated exemplar is a sample of student evidence, with a commentary, to explain key aspects of the standard. It assists teachers to make assessment judgements at the grade.

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

Grade: Achieved

Achieved requires the examination of an historical event or place that is of significance to New Zealanders.

This involves communicating key historical ideas through a coherent explanation of an event or place, with supporting evidence, and describing its significance to New Zealanders. The response must move beyond a narrative or chronological description.

The student has chosen a historical event: the atomic bombing of Japan. The historical context is outlined in an introductory paragraph with use of specific supporting evidence.

There is consistent use of key historical ideas at the beginning of each paragraph. In this sample, the key historical ideas comprise a basic statement about a cause and a consequence or significance of the atomic bombing. Each paragraph addresses and explains the key historical idea identified, without shifting focus.

In most instances the evidence clearly meets the threshold for a coherent explanation, as each paragraph examines the 'how' or 'why' of the key historical idea. For example, for the first idea the student explains the nature of the battle of Okinawa, how this showed Japan's unwillingness to surrender, and why this influenced US leaders to see the atomic bomb as a way to avoid the high casualties anticipated in an invasion. The final sentences of each paragraph provide this explanatory 'how' and 'why' evidence, and, supported by consistent historical detail, meet the overall requirement for examination.

The significance to New Zealand is described with reference to the impact for those who served in the J-Force, and the changing nature of New Zealand's attitude to the use of nuclear weapons.

An in-depth examination is required to reach Merit. This involves the use of detailed supporting evidence, and there is a step-up from 'describe' to 'explain' when establishing the significance of the chosen context to New Zealanders.

While the *causes* paragraphs meet the threshold for 'detailed' use of supporting evidence, a more consistent integration of detailed evidence into the remaining three body paragraphs would be required for Merit.

In addition, a more logical sequence of ideas, stronger supporting evidence (such as quotes, statistics, and specific examples), and further development of the points made in the significance paragraph is needed to move this section from description to explanation and meet the Merit criterion. For example:

- Rather than describing what the J-Force experienced, the response could explain how these experiences changed many veterans' attitudes, leading them to reconsider earlier beliefs that the bombs were necessary and to question whether such destruction could ever be justified.
- Rather than stating that attitudes changed and led to a nuclear free New Zealand, the response should explain how this shift occurred and show that the resulting legislation demonstrates the bombings' indirect influence on New Zealand's foreign policy and national identity.

After 6 long years of fighting World War II was slowly ending but Japan would not surrender under any circumstances. Japan's no surrender policy was evident throughout the war and by the time it was the last nation left standing against the Allied Forces, but the Japanese still wouldn't give in. This prompted America to finally close off this historical conflict with a weapon never seen before. On August 6th, 1945, at 8:15am, during World War II, an American B-29 bomber named Enola Gray flew over the Japanese city of Hiroshima and dropped Little Boy, the world's first nuclear bomb. On detonating, the explosion killed roughly 80,000 people with many more dying later due to radiation poisoning. This sent shockwaves throughout the world. America dropped a second atomic bomb on August 9th at 11:02am. Unlike Little Boy, which was a uranium bomb weighing nearly 4 tons, this bomb, named Fat Man, was a plutonium bomb that was bigger and longer weighing around 4.5 tons. This time it was dropped over the Japanese city of Nagasaki from a B-29 named Bockscar. Despite this bomb being larger, on impact only 40,000 people died. In total, an estimated 150,000-246,000 Japanese civilians died from the impact and effects of the atomic bombings. The massive death toll and destruction in Japan resulted in Emperor Hirohito announcing via radio Japan's surrender on August 15th 1945, which was eventually signed in writing on September 2nd 1945 aboard the USS Missouri, bringing an end to World War II.

The Battle of Okinawa was a military cause of the nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Fought between the 1st of April to June 22nd 1945, the Battle of Okinawa, was the last major fight and one of the bloodiest in World War II. After America's island-hopping campaign, Okinawa was the last island standing in their way of reaching Japan's shores for a final invasion. Capturing Okinawa would have provided Allied forces with a critical base of operations for the final invasion of Japan. Over the three months that the battle transpired, American forces struggled to make any ground with heavy rain and strong Japanese resistance combatting them every day. The conflict came to an end when Japanese General Ushijima and his Chief of Staff General Isamu Cho committed Seppuku (ritual suicide) as they had realised further fighting would be inconclusive, their deaths showing America that the Japanese would rather die than surrender. The battle was costly for both sides with over ten thousand American soldiers and over one hundred thousand Japanese soldiers dying, with many Okinawan civilians being caught in the crossfire or encouraged to commit suicide rather than be taken by the Americans. After the Allied Forces' high-cost win on Okinawa, they soon realised that a direct invasion of Japan was not worthwhile. On the mainland, over 2 million Japanese soldiers were preparing for them, and they would fight to their death. Allied forces estimated that too many troops would be fatally killed or injured if conventional war was to continue. After Roosevelt's death, Harry Truman became president. Upon receiving this role, he learnt about the Manhattan project. On July 16th, 1945, the Trinity test (the first ever detonation of a nuclear weapon) occurred and was deemed successful. Truman was informed. This led to President Truman's final decision that the bomb was a necessary and effective choice to bring a quick end to the Pacific war without risking America's military. If American soldiers were met with this much resistance on small islands such as Okinawa and Iwo Jima, a full scale invasion of Japan would be very costly. The Battle of Okinawa was a turning point that significantly persuaded America to use nuclear weapons. It was proof that Japan was willing to fight to the end and wouldn't surrender regardless of the cost. This made American leaders fear a mainland invasion of Japan as too much would be lost on both sides as a result. Therefore, the battle was not just a military conflict but played a direct role in the ultimate decision to end the war using the atomic bomb.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour was a cause of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The attack on Pearl Harbor took place on December 7th, 7:55am, 1941, and was one of the most important events in World War II. A Japanese fleet consisting of hundreds of planes, 29 ships, and 5 submarines launched a surprise attack on the United States naval fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor in Oahu, Hawaii. Over 2,400 American soldiers were killed, and numerous ships and aircraft were severely damaged or sunk. The damage and lives lost at this event led to America joining the Allied powers in World War II. US President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech describes the attack as "a date which will live in infamy" showing how the attack was perceived as a deliberate strike at America's military and that retaliation was in order. This speech not only expressed the outrage that was felt across America but also made entering the war a necessity for America. By 1945 the memory of Pearl Harbor and the "Day of Infamy" speech still resonated with America and shaped the US decision to bring the war to a quick end. Once the atomic bomb was ready for deployment it was viewed as a way to avoid a costly invasion and as retribution for the attack on Pearl Harbor.

US nuclear testing in the Pacific was a consequence of the nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Between 1946 to 1962, the US began testing nuclear weapons in the Pacific. The US sought to expand their nuclear weaponry unintentionally, starting an era known as the Nuclear Arms Race against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Acknowledged as the Pacific Proving Grounds, this was the area where nuclear bombs were dropped, most of the locations being amongst the Marshall Islands. Various operations occurred during this time but the main two were known as Operation Crossroads (the beginning of the nuclear testing in 1946) and Operation Castle (a series of huge bomb tests in 1954). A Senior Navy Officer named Ben Wyatt travelled to Bikini Atoll (an atoll amongst the islands) in 1946 on behalf of the US Army and told the 167 populace they were to leave the island "for the good of mankind". The result of the nuclear testing left local populations devastated, forced to relocate once they returned home due to the damage caused, exposed to radiation, and left with long term health and environmental damage. The US justified this by stating that the tests were necessary for national security.

The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki proved to the world the destructive power that the atomic bomb holds. This sparked the Cold War and the Nuclear Arms race between the USA and the USSR with both sides trying to "out power" the other. After sufficient testing had been done, both countries had the power to severely attack the other but neither side ever did. This is because of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). If one side were to attack, the other would simply fire back with the same amount of power or possibly even more, resulting in both sides being mutually destroyed (hence the name). The damage that occurred in Japan as a result of the nuclear bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki halted either side from attacking as it showed too much damage would transpire from another nuclear attack.

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were significant to many New Zealanders particularly the military unit known as the J Force (Japan Force). This was a group of just over 4000 New Zealand soldiers who were sent to occupy Japan on March 19th, 1946, seven months after Japan's surrender in WWII. Over a period of two years (1946-1948), over 12,000 New Zealand soldiers served in the J Force and were stationed in or near areas affected by the bombings. Initially, many in New Zealand saw the bombs as a necessary way

to end the war swiftly. However, that changed once they returned home and shared what they had witnessed, slowly altering the public's attitude towards nuclear weapons. It affected J Force soldiers deeply because they observed the human cost and infrastructural damage caused by the bombs. They witnessed things such as radiation sickness, destroyed cities, and traumatised civilians firsthand. Over time, the importance of the bombings to New Zealanders shifted from being a harbinger of peace due to the bombs swift end to the war, to a strong reminder of the dangers of nuclear weapons. This shift helped New Zealand grasp its anti-nuclear identity, which eventually resulted in the country declaring itself nuclear free in 1987. The event continues to effect New Zealanders today, not only because of our relationship to Japan as a key trading partner and ally, but also because of the country's continued commitment to nuclear disarmament and peace.

Grade: Merit

For Merit, the student needs to examine, in-depth, an historical event or place that is of significance to New Zealanders.

This involves communicating key historical ideas through a coherent explanation of the event or place, with detailed supporting evidence and an explanation of its significance to New Zealanders.

The student has chosen to focus on a historical event: Kristallnacht. Each paragraph begins with a clear, and at times complex, key historical idea. For example, the *cause* paragraphs move beyond making a basic statement of causation to make a clear connection between the *cause* and its influence on the event. These ideas are then developed within the paragraphs using a depth of supporting evidence that reflects expectations for Merit at curriculum level 7.

There is a range of detailed supporting evidence used. The depth of evidence is consistent across the entire response. This is seen through the use of specific names, dates, statistics, short extracts from primary sources, and specific examples.

The response easily meets the threshold for an in-depth 'coherent explanation'. Each paragraph is discrete (it remains focused on a single key historical idea and does not stray into a narrative), the explanation is logically sequenced, and the evidence consistently provides the 'how' and 'why' that is associated with the cause or consequence being discussed. These sentences are often found at the end of each paragraph and logically result from the discussion that precedes them. For example, after expanding on each consequence, the student explains how the impacts of these consequences were felt, whether it was short term or long term, and why this is/was significant.

The student explains the significance to New Zealand with a discussion of the 9 refugees New Zealand took in from the Kindertransport system and makes a connection to this event, the humanitarian precedent set, and New Zealand's ongoing commitment to accepting refugees. As with the remainder of the response, this paragraph is also supported with detailed evidence and specific examples.

For Excellence, a convincing explanation and the use of comprehensive supporting evidence is required. A convincing explanation could be achieved with further synthesis of the descriptive elements of each paragraph, and a greater focus on the depth of explanation. This might include linking to the wider context or bringing attention to the elements of the event or place that show that there is seldom a single agreed to narrative of 'what' or 'why' events occurred.

For example, in the Aryanization paragraph, a convincing explanation would refer to the wider implications of these policies such as how the legalised theft normalised antisemitism, or how Aryanization also stripped Jewish communities of the businesses, institutions, and professional networks that had sustained them for generations. This loss weakened communal stability and social cohesion, making Jewish populations more vulnerable to later persecution, and more dependent on the Nazi regime for permission to work, relocate, or access resources.

Kristallnacht is one of the most significant events in modern history, and it also holds particular significance for New Zealand. Its causes included the assassination of Ernst vom Rath and long-term tensions stemming from the Treaty of Versailles. Although the event itself lasted only four hours, its consequences, such as forced Aryanization and the expansion of concentration camps, had devastating and long-lasting impacts on Jewish communities and their descendants. The significance of Kristallnacht is also felt in New Zealand today, as we are home to the descendants of 29 Jewish children who were rescued and brought here in the years that followed.

The Assassination of Ernst vom Rath is an immediate cause for Kristallnacht because it provided the Nazi leadership with a politically useful incident to justify violence they had long been preparing for. On November 7th, 1938 Herschel Grynszpan brought a gun and went to the German embassy in Paris and shot the young German diplomat Ernst vom Rath 5 times. Herschel Grynszpan was 15 when he and his family fled from their home in Poland to France due to the rise of Hitler. When he was 17, Herschel found out his family had been forced from their home in Germany and dropped at the Polish border. This enraged Grynszpan and he wanted to get revenge, so on November 7th 1938 he brought a gun and went to the German embassy in Paris with no particular target in mind. He was escorted to Ernst vom Rath's office, the current German diplomat, to calm him down but when entering he shot Rath 5 times without even realising who he was. While he was being arrested he was yelling and shouting about the treatment of Jews in Germany. Nazi leaders quickly reframed the shooting as a deliberate attack by "international Jewry" on Germany. Goebbels in particular used the assassination as propaganda, presenting it as evidence that Jews were enemies of the German state. It gave the Nazis the opportunity they needed to launch a coordinated, state-sanctioned attack on Jewish communities across Germany and Austria.

Another cause for Kristallnacht is the Treaty of Versailles which created the political, economic, and social conditions that allowed extreme antisemitism to grow in Germany. The Treaty of Versailles was a document created by the four western powers; United Kingdom, France, Italy and the United States, also known as the Big Four to end the war and prevent another that brought great humiliation and antisemitism to Germany. The original armistice for WWI was signed November 11th 1918, in January 1918 Woodrow Wilson published a statement about "Fourteen Points", each a principle of peace. Germany expected this treaty to be based around those points but France, having suffered considerably throughout the war, wanted to be harsher on who they saw as the root problem, Germany. Many harsh clauses in the Treaty were directed at Germany such as the demilitarization of the Rhineland, a western area of Germany bordering the Rhine, the 13% land loss; Eupen-Malmedy to be given to Belgium, Hultschin district to Czechoslovakia, Pozan, West prussia and upper silesia to Poland, the return of Alsace and Lorraine to France and referendums being made for Danish-Germany and the massive reparations to be paid out to the Allied forces, around 6.6 Billion pounds or 1 Trillion Marks. None of these clauses were seen as more humiliating as the War Guilt clause of Article 231, it called for Germany to take full responsibility for starting the war and therefore giving them reason to cut the Army back to 100,000 men and the Navy to 15,000 sailors. These terms caused widespread humiliation and economic hardship, leading many Germans to feel angry and betrayed. As expected, Germans were outraged and called the Treaty "diktat" or dictated peace, Hermann Müller and Johannes Bell, the German diplomats who signed the Treaty, were labelled "The November Criminals" by right wing and nationalist parties that opposed the signing. When the Allies took 48% of Germany's Iron and Coal production land, limiting their economic power and making everything extremely expensive the "Stab-in-the-Back" myth was created and fed by Nationalists, Antisemites and Anti-

communists. It was saying that the German Jews sabotaged Germany from the inside leading to them surrendering and therefore all the damage that had been done to their beloved country, because antisemitism was rife throughout Europe from decades before most people believed this myth and others who just needed someone to blame went along with it. This is a long term cause because it happened 19 years prior to the event, it caused Kristallnacht by amplifying the antisemitism already in Germany from previous years and giving them a person to hate and blame for this dishonor to their esteemed country.

On the night of November 9th, all across Germany, Austria and Sudetenland, SA and Hitler Youth units took to the streets posing as civilians to carry out orders given from the top. At 11:50pm Heinrich Müller transmitted 3 orders to the Gestapo offices; Do not interfere with the actions taking place against Jews and their synagogues, they were to secure important archives from the synagogues before setting them alight especially the material in Cologne, and preparations for 20,000 - 30,000 Jews to be arrested should commence. 200 synagogues were set fire to and 1,000 others were damaged, Jews were beaten in the streets and forced into public acts of humiliation, 7,500 commercial establishments and many Jewish homes were broken into and vandalized, china and crystal smashed, many took to desecrating Jewish cemeteries and according to Gestapo records 91 Jews died, although many think it's more in the hundreds. This event took place in all of 4 hours but had many severe consequences and lasting significance.

A long term consequence of Kristallnacht is the concentration camps. On the night of November 9th the order was given to arrest 20,000 - 30,000 well to do, healthy Jewish men between the ages of 16 and 60, then deliver them to the available prison spaces and contact was to be made with the "appropriate concentration camp regarding the quickest committal of the Jews to the camp." Dachau, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen were the most finished and working concentration camps at the time therefore the ones who bore the brunt of the imprisonment. They were held for 3 months forced to work in horrendous conditions and hundred perished due to it. This was the first time a wide roundup had happened and led to imprisonment in concentration camps. Just 3 years after this event in 1941 the first extermination camp would be built, Chelmno in Poland, which on 8th of December 1941 would carry out the first murders of the 320,000 murders to be done there and in 1942 the biggest concentration camp turned into the biggest and most famous camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, which killed 1.1 million Jews including 200,000 children and young people. The long term impact this had on the Jewish population is that of the 9,500,000 Jews living in Europe before the war there was little over $\frac{1}{3}$ left with around 6 million being murdered during Nazi reign and it still has impact on the survivors and their families who take their families to the remaining camps in a reminder and celebration of surviving.

Another consequence of Kristallnacht was Aryanization of Jewish businesses. Aryanization was the selling of Jewish businesses to German or non Jewish people. From 1933 till summer of 1938 it was voluntary, usually Jews who faced economic and social discrimination were encouraged to sell, in 1933 there were 100,000 Jewish businesses throughout Germany, half were small retail mostly dealing with clothes and footwear and the other half were factories/workshops/professional offices, lawyers, physicians and independents. After Kristallnacht, Aryanization became forced with new regulations prohibiting most economic activities to Jews, the remaining Jewish businesses were given a non-jewish trustee to oversee the immediate sale to a non jewish German. Majority of the sale money went into paying the wage of the trustee and the rest went to the Office of the Four Year Plan, which was led by Hermann Göring and was preparing Germany's economy for war. Jews who were attempting to emigrate were forced to forfeit most of their property and were charged a "Flight Tax" while any of the Jews who had decided to

stay tried to claim their insurance money for the damages had it confiscated from them. Aryanization is a short term consequence as it only affected the Jewish population of Germany for a few months, although did have lasting impact continuing after the war. This consequence was significant as it started to really have an impact on Jews by taking away their source of money which would lead to them having difficulties emigrating or providing for their families and getting sent to ghettos.

The significance of Kristallnacht on New Zealand was the 9 kids that entered the country via the Kindertransport project and the 20 who were saved independently. Between December 1938 and May 1940, there was a project to rescue 10,000 Jewish children under 17 and transport them to Great Britain and into children's homes safe and away from the Reich. There were 9 children that got transported from Great Britain to New Zealand during the 2 years that Kindertransport was still running. 3 years before Kindertransport was a global thing, Annie and Max Deckston who were originally from Belarus came to New Zealand in 1900, they were originally farmers but during the early 1930's they decided to set up an orphanage on a large property in Wellington for Jewish children. They ended up bringing 20 orphans to New Zealand, 8 in 1935 and 12 in 1937. This made New Zealand one of the few countries willing to take Jewish children at a time when most nations were closing their borders. These rescue efforts established an important humanitarian precedent for New Zealand. All of the children who went into the Deckston Orphanage all survived, some stayed in New Zealand for their lives and some moved to Australia where there were large Jewish communities. New Zealand had no qualms surrounding Jewish people so there weren't any real objections to this, but it was the first time we took in refugees leading up to and during a war. This has continued to the present day as we take in many refugees a year from various wars going on around the globe and this creates a diverse culture which people find safe and inviting to emigrate here.

Grade: Excellence

Excellence requires students to comprehensively examine an historical event or place that is of significance to New Zealanders.

This involves communicating key historical ideas through a convincing explanation of the event or place, with comprehensive supporting evidence and an explanation of its significance to New Zealanders.

The student has comprehensively examined the Vietnam War protests that occurred in New Zealand. Their effective use of primary and secondary source evidence, specific case studies and examples, the use of statistics, names, and relevant quotations, easily satisfies the requirement for comprehensive supporting evidence.

There is consistent communication of clear and well-developed key historical ideas. At times these ideas demonstrate critical thinking through links to the wider historical context, such as the ethical and moral questions surrounding the war or the influence of mounting public pressure on government decision-making. This makes the key historical ideas more sophisticated and reflects the type of evidence expected for a 'convincing explanation'. The discussion that follows the key historical idea at the beginning of each paragraph is succinct, focused, and well evidenced.

There are several aspects across the response that reflect the nature of evidence expected for a 'convincing explanation'. Some examples include:

- An understanding of the wider historical context and its influence on the event. For example, the television coverage of the war, the emergence of the counter-culture.
- Identifying complexities such as diverging opinions or experiences. For example, Holyoake's statement was in contrast with the sentiments of many New Zealanders, and the conflicting historiography of Rabel and McGibbon.
- Processing and interpreting the key historical ideas to offer insights about what is revealed by the event and the responses it generated.

The student explains the significance to New Zealand with a discussion of the ways in which the Vietnam War protests resonate today, drawing parallels with the Palestinian protests of 2025. Further points are made about New Zealand's increasingly moral positioning on issues and the connection between the social attitudinal shift and New Zealand's subsequent change in approach to foreign policy.

50 years ago, New Zealanders were divided over their moral beliefs on a war that only 3000 NZ soldiers fought in. The Vietnam-War protests occurred between 1967 and 1971, dividing the nation and causing civil unrest.

The Vietnam War protests were a direct reaction to the controversy over the Vietnam War. Specifically, whether the actions taken by the Republican side (South Vietnam, The United States, New Zealand etc.) were ethically and morally right. The weapons and military tactics used by Republican battalions commonly affected innocent Vietnamese civilians; over two million lost their lives (*Encyclopedia Britannica*). Across the world people were angered by the effects of chemical weapons, for example the infamous 'agent orange,' on innocent Vietnamese. Extensive television coverage led protestors to question and make moral arguments against New Zealand's involvement in the war, specifically that South Vietnam was a corrupt dictatorship and defending it was immoral. Furthermore, New Zealanders believed that New Zealand should follow an independent foreign policy rather than a policy tied to a superpower such as the U.S. Subsequently, the extensive U.S bombing campaigns were a focal point for protestors. Prime Minister Holyoake stated, 'I am pleased that such a strong stand was taken and expressed in the communique on the Vietnam War issue.' (*National Library of NZ*). This approach was not agreed with by most New Zealand citizens. New Zealanders felt that they would rather have their own foreign policies than be tied to a superpower such as the U.S. This shows how New Zealanders at the time were ready to become an autonomous nation, creating an opening for many more NZ protests to follow in the next decade.

New Zealanders took many different actions to protest how they felt about the Vietnam War. These actions took the form of protests, rallies, marches and objects being thrown. Most rallies occurred between 1967 and 1971. Eggs, paint and flower bombs were thrown during demonstrations. During a 1969 election meeting, firecrackers were thrown and thirty people were arrested. Violence was also displayed by anti-war protestors during US Vice President Spiro Agnew's 1970 visit to Auckland (*Vietnam War NZ*). By 1971 there were up to 35,000 protesters throughout the country, whose main way of protesting were rallies through the streets. This shows how although protestors favored peaceful demonstrations like rallies, there were still some violent outbursts exemplified by the objects thrown. A civic parade led by the Band of the Royal New Zealand Artillery was disrupted when demonstrators threw red paint to symbolize the bloodshed in Vietnam. (*New Zealand History*) Other protests include two members of the left-wing progressive youth unit being convicted of laying a protest wreath on ANZAC Day in Christchurch in 1967. There were also 21 arrests during an Auckland protest against the visit of South Vietnam's premier, Air-Vice Marshal King. (*Vietnam War NZ*) When the veterans returned home from the war, they were met with protestors labelling them as 'murderers.' The homecoming parade in Auckland on May 12th saw a violent clash between veterans and protestors. Vietnam War veteran, Bill Godfrey, stated '(Protesters] were smearing themselves in ox blood and had signs saying 'murderers' and 'child killers', and our people had to endure that.' The actions of protestors show how deeply they felt about the Vietnam War, as they went to excessive lengths in front of veterans who had recently returned home. This conveys the mass anger they felt over the war and the impact that a foreign war had on New Zealanders. The intensity of these

protests can also be understood within the wider context of the emerging counter-culture of the late 1960s. Around the world, and although later to the party, also in New Zealand, young people were more frequently willing and ready to challenge traditional authority, social conservatism, and loyalties to nations who wielded power on vulnerable populations. Global movements increasingly focused on peace, civil rights (in particular the Black Civil rights movement in America) and freedom, and this saw many New Zealanders publicly question government decisions and take part in protest action.

As a result of the protests and negative public sentiment around the war, the national government chose not to acknowledge the soldiers when they returned home to New Zealand. As a result of this, many soldiers suffered from depression, embarrassment and anger (*National Library of Medicine*). According to research by Veteran Affairs NZ, 'Overseas and New Zealand studies suggest Vietnam veterans are more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than civilians. Veterans with high exposure to combat are at higher risk of PTSD.' This shows how even after they have returned home, Vietnam War veterans faced many hardships. The protests in New Zealand made it harder for veterans to reach out and ask for help, many soldiers may have felt shame for fighting in the war. This is supported by Veteran Barry Dreyer, as he states that he was 'Often looked down upon by family and friends for fighting in the war.' Agent Orange affected many New Zealand soldiers, and when they had children, many babies were stillborn or with birth defects (*Veteran Affairs*). In 2005 Massey University conducted a study that showed that Agent Orange affected both the children and grandchildren of veterans. The NZ Herald states that 'Successive governments have said there was no proof the veterans had been exposed, let alone hurt.' This shows how the Vietnam War was so controversial that the government had ignored the suffering of veterans and did very little to remedy this until 2006 with the Memorandum of Understanding for NZ Vietnam Veterans. There are no direct consequences of the Vietnam War Protests as their main point was to refrain from sending NZ soldiers to war, and for the war to be stopped. These are all short-term consequences, and these protests actually had no effect on the war, or the soldiers sent. Therefore, the only consequences that are evident are the way that Vietnam War victims were treated.

Although there was little political or social change as a result of the Vietnam War Protests, the events remain significant to New Zealand. The Vietnam War Protests are remarkable as they can be remembered as a time where New Zealand was split in half and saw its largest set of protests yet. Historian Roberto Rabel stated that-'Vietnam has steadily receded from public consciousness' (*Anti-Vietnam War Protests NZ*). This contrasts with what another historian Ian McGibbon stated in 2010, 'Forty years on, the Vietnam War still conjures up negative images, of controversy, debate and regret' (*Anti-Vietnam War Protests NZ*). I think that although the Vietnam War Protests are not remembered or talked about by New Zealanders as much today, the protests are still resonant as they show just how easily it is for our nation to split in half over a war or ideology. It resonates with us today as a warning that New Zealanders are not afraid to take direct action for something they believe in. This is relevant at a time where currently two wars are being fought in Palestine and Ukraine. We have already seen Pro-Palestine protests up in Auckland over the past couple of months, and we can expect to see many more. This is relevant to the Vietnam War Protests, as both wars are being fought overseas with almost no involvement from Kiwi soldiers, yet New

Zealanders still protest against the wars on a moral basis. This shows how passionate New Zealanders are to defend ideologies on a moral or ethical basis. Additionally, the protests remain significant as they have led to a shift in public opinion over whether New Zealand should follow an independent path in foreign policy or remain tied to the views of a superpower such as the USA. New Zealanders' protests meant that they thought of themselves as a peaceful nation, leading to more foreign policies unique to New Zealand, such as the 1982 Nuclear-Protests. The Vietnam War protests were a key pivotal point in New Zealand protest and should be remembered.

A reference list was included but has been removed for brevity.