

You are advised to spend 60 minutes writing an essay in this booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS

Throughout history, major forces, and movements have influenced significant historical events. These significant historical events include:

- the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- Battle of Te Ika-a-Ranginui (1825)
- the Russian Revolution (1917)
- establishment of the Kingitanga
- the establishment of the Women's Franchise League (Britain)
- the opening up of Japan to the West
- passing of New Zealand's anti-nuclear legislation
- the 1911 Revolution in China
- the Cultural Revolution in China
- the coming to power of the Nazis
- the uprising in Hungary
- establishment of the National Council of Women (New Zealand)
- the Tet Offensive in Vietnam
- creation of the state of Israel
- the Holocaust
- the Cuban Missile Crisis
- the American Revolutionary War
- the fall of Constantinople
- the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte

Choose ONE significant historical event, EITHER from the list above OR from your course of study. You may also consider the role of a significant person involved in an event.

Write your chosen significant historical event in the box below.

Significant historical event: The Arrival of U.S. Troops into Vietnam
1965

Write an essay about your chosen significant historical event.

ESSAY TASK

Examine the causes and consequences of a significant historical event that had an impact on the lives of a significant number of people.

Your answer should be 600–800 words.

Plan your essay on page 4.

Begin your essay on page 5.

PLANNING PAGE

Causes of the event:

- The spread of communism in Vietnam.
Vietnamese attacking US Air bases (Gulf of Tonkin)
- Viet cong insurgents
- ARVN failure to stop communist tide
Diem losing popular support
- The communist threat could be easily removed
by America
Viet cong attacking at Da Nang and Pleiku

Consequences of the event:

- Environmental and health issues in Vietnam
- Opposition to war
- Anti war protest movement
- Removal of troops.
Vietnam reunites.

Begin your essay here:

ASSESSOR'S
USE ONLY

In early ~~may~~ March, 1965, American troops landed on the shores of Vietnam. They had been given set instructions to remove the communist threat that existed there and to shut down the ^{Viet Cong} ~~rebellion~~ insurgents. The South Vietnamese army had proved that they were unable to do this themselves and the U.S. felt that the task would be easy for them. Unfortunately, this was not the case, and now Vietnam suffers ongoing health and environmental issues due to the US involvement. As the media projected uncensored images back in the U.S., opposition to the war began to grow and an anti war protest movement surfaced. When the troops finally left, Vietnam were able to reunite as one nation once again.

America had always seen herself as the "leaders of the free world." after the ~~World War~~ ^{that started} ~~of 1945~~ after 1945, America had fought to stop communism from spreading. North Vietnam was communist, and was linked by the U.S. to the escalating Viet Cong rebellion, as a threat to South Vietnam. In order to ~~stop~~ prevent South Vietnam from becoming a communist nation, America would have to stop the Viet Cong from ^{advancing} ~~keeping~~ ~~other~~ activity in the South. When the Gulf of Tonkin incident ^{occurred,} ~~occurred~~ America used it to their advantage. ~~W~~ The Vietnamese had attacked an American ~~a~~ ship on patrol near

the borders of Vietnam, and America then claimed that they had attacked another. This event ^{led} ~~lead~~ to congress giving President ^{Lyndon} Johnson the power to conduct foreign policy as he saw fit. ^{Johnson} ~~Johnson~~ ordered air strikes on North Vietnam, namely on the Ho Chi Minh trail. The Ho Chi Minh trail was a network that provided a pathway from North Vietnam to South Vietnam through forestry. By destroying the ~~the~~ trail, Johnson hoped to cut off ^{any} ~~the~~ supplies from ^{the North} ~~reaching~~ the Viet Cong in the South. This did not work, and the Viet Cong remained active in the south. //

The Vietnam Cong San, or Viet Cong, were the National Liberation Front's military unit. They were guerrilla fighters, fighting for their cause of bringing the two Vietnamese countries together as one communist nation. After the Geneva conference of 1954, Vietnam had been left divided into two: North and South counter parts. The Viet Cong aimed to bring the two together as one nation once again. They were insurgent in South Vietnam, and the South Vietnamese army failed to stop them completely. //

The U.S. were heavily influenced by ^{Former U.S. President Eisenhower's} ~~the~~ Domino Theory on communism. ^{It} ~~is~~ was believed that if South Vietnam ^{fell to} ~~were~~ communism, neighbouring countries Laos and Cambodia would be next.

South Vietnam was an ally to America, and she needed protection from Communists. America therefore sent advisors to help the South Vietnamese army, the ARVN, strategize on how to defeat the Viet Cong. ~~But~~ ^{This was} not enough though, and Viet Cong remained active in the South.

America's ally in South Vietnam was president Ngo Dinh Diem. This dictator's ^{regime was unpopular} ~~unpopular~~ ^{was unpopular} ~~regime~~ ^{regime} ~~ruled~~ ^{ruled} among the people ^{of South Vietnam} and fuelled the Viet Cong rebellion. America felt that if she stepped in, the Viet Cong could be easily shut down. //

President Johnson honestly believed that the war ~~it~~ would be won without difficulty. "What's a few thousand men in black pyjamas running around the bushes against one of the world's greatest superpowers?" ~~Johnson~~ ^{Johnson} thought that the ~~troop~~ troops would enter Vietnam, remove the communist threat and ~~be~~ ^{return} home within a few months. Air strikes in the North did not have the desired effect for Johnson, and soon Viet Cong started attacking U.S. air bases in the South, such as Da Nang and Pleiku. Johnson ordered in ground troops then, initially as retaliation, but then to continue the war against the insurgents. The troops set sail for Vietnam, and they arrived on the 3rd of March, 1965. //

The U.S. Troops in Vietnam

America fought a 'high tech' war in Vietnam. Every conceivable weapon short of nuclear was used there, including B52 bombers, helicopters and artillery. The use of biochemical agents, Napalm and Agent Orange, left a negative effect on the environment in Vietnam. It can be blamed for the ~~environment~~ ^{country's} infertile soils and trees ~~which do not grow to a natural height~~ ^{spiritual trees} which do not grow to a natural height. The ^{biochemical} agents also caused health problems, and is the root cause of birth defects in Vietnam. The Vietnamese people were not the only ones affected, however, as ~~and~~ the people back at home were beginning to oppose the war. //

U.S.

The ^{U.S.} troops in Vietnam left a lasting impression not only on the people and environment of Vietnam but also on the hearts and minds of the people back home. As the media began to project uncensored images of the fighting, back in the U.S., ^{opposition to the war began to grow} people started questioning the way the war was being fought. There was a massive controversy after pictures of the My Lai massacre surfaced, where the entire village of My Lai 4 had been ransacked and few people left alive. This ~~brought up massive issues~~ ^{The people of America saw what seemed to be innocent} ~~people~~ ^{civilians ruthlessly murdered:} innocent civilians which the troops had thought to be Viet Cong. This brought up massive issues as people began to question the way in which

As the war was being fought, some argued that America should use maximum military force to gain a quick victory in Vietnam, while others argued that America had gotten herself involved in a mere civil war and had no right to interfere. Slowly, a protest movement had ^{started to} ~~begin to~~ build up, a protest against fighting in countries such as Vietnam. //

By the mid 1960s, a protest movement had surfaced, ~~beginning~~ a movement that called for an end to the fighting in Vietnam. Draft cards, which called for men to fight in the ^{Vietnam} war were publicly burned and people simply refused to get involved. In 1970, the Kent state shootings occurred, where four students were shot dead and nine left wounded at Kent state University. Some of these students had been actively involved in a protest against an American invasion of Cambodia, ~~at~~ but others had simply been in the area at the time. The people did not want troops in Vietnam, let alone any other ^{country} ~~countries~~, and they made their voices heard. //

When the 1968 elections came along for America, ^{President} Richard Nixon promised to remove the troops from Vietnam "in peace and with honour." In 1969, he kept this promise and started a process of "Vietnamisation." The ARVN were trained and taught

how to fend for themselves, and America then began to withdraw her troops. Within two years, the North Vietnamese army had come down and taken over South Vietnam. America had left, in peace and with her honour, and Vietnam were once again reunited as one nation. //

Viet Cong
~~Vietcong~~ were insurgents in South Vietnam throughout the 1950s. The ARVN had failed to stem ~~stop~~ the communist tide and ^{stop} the guerilla activity, and so America felt the need to step in. ~~This left~~ The troops left a lasting impression on the people and environment of Vietnam, and it caused an anti war protest movement to surface. When the troops finally left, Vietnam were able to reunite as one country once again, and they ~~could~~ ^{were} now free of any foreign policies. //