



Curriculum:

Students will gain knowledge, skills and experience to:

- Understand how historical forces and movements have influenced the causes and consequences of events of significance to New Zealanders
- Understand how people's interpretations of events that are of significance to new Zealanders differ

Teaching and Learning in relation to literacy demands:

Students will need to use writing to explain events, theories, beliefs and opinions relevant to curriculum tasks. They will need to use planning strategies according to the purpose of the task, incorporate specialized vocabulary when writing, and structure their response according to purpose. Students will also need to edit and proofread their text to check meaning, accuracy, legibility and conformity to the expected standard.

Assessment task (written) – Example from 2012 external assessment 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.

<p>Structure</p> <p>The entire essay is not shown here, however the writer has structured the response in an acceptable essay format that includes an introductory paragraph, a series of body paragraphs developing significant points, and a concluding paragraph that summarises the points made.</p> <p>The planning page for this assessment supported writers to identify the causes of the event and the consequences of the event. The writer has used ‘causes’ and ‘consequences’, as well as chronological order, to provide structure for the essay.</p> <p>The essay follows a logical sequence of points. The writer has structured each paragraph in the body of the essay to deal with a new point. Links are made between paragraphs, creating a coherent response e.g. the final sentence of one paragraph linking to the first sentence in the next (<i>The Vietnamese people were not the only ones affected however.../The U.S. troops in Vietnam left a lasting impression not only...</i>)</p>	<p>Exemplar of student work (Extracts only)</p> <p>Examine the causes and consequences of a significant historical event that had an impact on the lives of a significant number of people. (The arrival of U.S. troops into Vietnam, 1965)</p> <p><i>President Johnson honestly believed that the war would be won without difficulty... Johnson thought that the troops would enter Vietnam, remove the communist threat and return home within a few months. Air strikes in the North did not have the desired effect for Johnson, and soon Vietcong 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...</i></p> <p><i>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 country’s infertile soils and trees which do not grow to a natural height. The biochemical agents also caused health problems, and are the root cause of birth defects in Vietnam. The Vietnamese people were not the only ones affected however, as the people back at home were beginning to oppose the war.</i></p> <p><i>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. There was a massive controversy after pictures of the My Lai massacre surfaced, where the entire village of My Lai had been ransacked and few people left alive. The people of America saw what seemed to be innocent civilians which the troops had thought to be associated with the Viet Cong. This brought up massive issues as people began to question the way in which 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 started to build up</i></p>	<p>Audience and Purpose</p> <p>Language use and structure is appropriate for audience and purpose – a formal essay.</p> <p>Links are made to the question throughout the response (<i>It can be blamed for.../ ...also caused/... lasting impression on...</i>)</p>
<p>Ideas and Information</p> <p>The writer has responded appropriately to the question indicating that he/she has a good understanding of the content.</p> <p>The information provided is relevant to the question.</p> <p>The causes and consequences of the event are outlined and clearly explained. Supporting detail is integrated into the response, through the use of examples (<i>There was massive controversy after pictures of the My Lai massacre surfaced...</i>) and through quotations (not shown in this extract).</p>		<p>Language</p> <p>Subject –specific vocabulary has been used effectively in relation to the question (<i>retaliation, insurgents, massacre, ransacked, victory</i>).</p> <p>Language choice is used for effect and to create coherence throughout the essay (<i>Every conceivable weapon.../...initially as retaliation.../...the hearts and minds of the people back home</i>)</p> <p>Accuracy</p> <p>Generally accurate writing in terms of grammar, punctuation and spelling assists in creating a clear explanation of the causes and consequences.</p>