

No part of the candidate evidence in this exemplar material may be presented in an external assessment for the purpose of gaining credits towards an NCEA qualification.

1

91005



910050



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

Level 1 History, 2017

91005 Describe the causes and consequences of an historical event

9.30 a.m. Friday 24 November 2017
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Describe the causes and consequences of an historical event.	Describe in depth the causes and consequences of an historical event.	Comprehensively describe the causes and consequences of an 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.

You should 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 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

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

Excellence

TOTAL

07

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on ONE historical event that you have studied this year, using the essay question below.

Your chosen historical event should be:

- a specific historical event in time, or
- a historical movement or development.

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

You should provide context for your discussion in a detailed paragraph(s) describing the historical event.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

ESSAY QUESTION

Identify and describe TWO main causes of your chosen historical event.

What were TWO main consequences of the event for people and/or groups?

Historical event:

Fall of the Berlin Wall

PLANNING

ASSESSOR'S
USE ONLY

TWO main causes of the historical event

Underlying dissatisfaction with communist life in EG and (hope and strength from events in neighbouring countries were the underlying causes of the fall of the wall.)

A miscommunication between the Politburo and their spokesperson was the trigger for the fall of the wall.

Description of the historical event

TWO main consequences for people/groups

Reunification of Germany almost a year later caused many economic and social problems for the citizens of both ^{former} East and West Germany

The fall of the wall resulted in many political developments in ^{the wider} Eastern Europe.
- All previously communist Eastern European regimes / central right parties

Begin your essay here:

ASSESSOR'S
USE ONLY

For 28 years, the Berlin Wall divided Germany in two, separating families and life opportunities between East and West Germany. West Germany was a merged zone of French, British, and American occupation while East Germany was an artificial state controlled by the Soviet Union. However, on the 9th of November, 1989, the wall fell to the joy of both sides. A build up of dissatisfaction with communist life in East Germany fueled with hope and strength to fight the wall from events in neighbouring countries were the main ^{long-term} causes of this event, ~~which happened~~ triggered by a fatal mistake made by a Politburo spokesperson on that night. Subsequently, Germany was reunified almost a year later, but with rather grim and unexpected consequences. East Germany's economy could not keep up with the West and caused many social and economic problems. However, there were also big changes in the wider Eastern Europe, like increased numbers of centre-right parties in power and other political developments.

Underlying dissatisfaction with communist life in East Germany was one of the main causes of the fall of the Berlin Wall. With secret police "stazi" to spy and mark on those criticizing the government and people being bugged in their own homes, citizens were very unhappy, describing it as "life in an open air prison." The sheer number of people that attempted to escape speaks volumes about the level of discontentment - it is estimated that around 5000 managed to escape, despite the 100 that were killed in the process. Those who had to stay also had to suffer things like shortages in common goods like cars and appliances and very little variety in things like flavors of icecream and types of coffee, if they were even in stock. Those who were unhappy about their quality of life expressed so in the Monday demonstrations in Leipzig after the prayers for peace, which first began on the 4th of September, with only 1,200 to start with. Initially, their chant was "we want out!", but was changed 2 weeks later to "we stay here!", which ultimately scared the politburo more, as it implied that the people no longer just wanted to leave, but were demanding reform. By the 2nd of October, the number of protestors had increased to 20,000, and by the 23rd, 300,000. ^{Those protests reached the Politburo that if something didn't change they would have trouble on their hands.} The incompatibilities between human nature and the way of communist life was one of the main causes of the fall of the wall - if they were satisfied, the

wall would never have been built in the first place, but even with the stress and spying on people, the government could not force East Germany into submission forever.

Political developments in neighbouring countries gave increasing numbers of Germans the hope and strength to fight their leaders and eventually the wall. With Mikhail Gorbachev coming into power in the Soviet Union in 1985, the pressure to keep hardline communism was gone. His introduction of new policies "perestroika" (restructuring) and "glasnost" (transparency) as a way of reform to boost the Soviet economy gave ^{East} Germans hope that change was on its way. And indeed it was - Gorbachev ^{also} abolished the Brezhnev Doctrine, which meant Soviet tanks would no longer interfere with any communist countries from reforming, allowing protesters to now safely protest, and Solidarity, a labour union previously driven underground by Brezhnev to become active again. It did - and won the electoral vote. In Poland, Tadeusz Mazowiecki became prime minister; the first non-communist prime minister in Eastern Europe since 1948. Hungary, ~~in~~ partly inspired by the events in Poland, opened their borders ^{in 1989}, which allowed East Germans to indirectly escape. In the first 3 days alone, around 18,000 GDR citizens escaped through Hungary. Hungary also allowed a multi-party democracy system. These events removed the fear East Germans had of protesting and gave them the hope and strength to go fight the wall and eventually break through on the night of the fatal mistake of the spokesperson of the Politburo who announced wrong information on live TV.

Reunification of Germany almost a year after the fall of the wall brought many unexpected economic and social issues. This happened in November, 1990, after the East communist party was kicked out of government and new leadership negotiated reunification. However, the consequences of this were not as good as expected. East Germany's economy could not keep up with the West's and collapsed, as their goods were of lower quality and in less demand than competing companies. Currency Union was introduced earlier that year, when the GDR was still present, that changed the exchange rate of ^{East} West German to West German marks from 4:5:1 to 1:1. Prices rose by 450% overnight, causing 30% of the economy to be unable to export, resulting in high levels of unemployment. ^{Former} West Germans were not happy either, as their tax money was being used to fix the East. Around \$1.6 million flowed from the West to the East, to be spent on repairing neighbourhoods and repair building ^{with little visible impact, as} autobahns, but most were spent on government benefits and welfare payments. When the GDR was defeated, their

assets were privatised, and 85% were bought by former West Germans. Around 1.7 ^{million} ~~thousand~~ hectares of agricultural land was sold, resulting in 80% of agricultural workers losing their jobs and facing unemployment. As said by Bruni de la Motte, a former East German; "Despite many advantages, for many it was more a disaster than a celebratory event."

The fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification of Germany resulted in many political developments in the wider Eastern Europe. The Berlin Wall was a symbol of the Cold War and Iron Curtain, and the fall represented the end of the Cold War and a great weakening of communism. By the Summer of 1990, all formerly communist regimes in Eastern Europe had been replaced by ^{democratically elected} ~~centrist~~ governments. In Germany, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia all had centre-right parties in power, while in Bulgaria and Romania, retired communists stayed in power, but the parties were still politically ~~still~~ active. The Soviet Union also saw East Germany as a "buffer zone", and with that out of its power, they felt more threatened, and eventually fell on Christmas eve, 1991, leaving the US the world's sole superpower to this day. The fall ^{of the wall} and reunification of Germany also resulted in the expansion of the Western military alliance NATO, which still scares Russia today.

The fall of the Berlin Wall is a great example of what people power can achieve. Discontentment, hope, strength and protest were all big factors of this significant event, only to bring unhappiness, unemployment and social ^{and economic} problems to the people of Germany after reunification. However, the rest of the world can look upon this as a great weakening of communism, especially in ~~the~~ Eastern Europe and the trigger for many political advancements in that area.

Exemplar Exam Papers for the NZQA Website

Level One History AS 91005

Excellence Exemplar – (E7)

Fall of the Berlin Wall

This candidate has written a concise essay that comprehensively describes this historic event. Each paragraph has lots of detailed information that is directly linked to the event. Very full, well written explanation is accompanied by statistics, dates, names of people and places which show a thorough understanding of the event. The essay is also very well structured. Each paragraph begins with a clear topic sentence that is followed by the detailed information sentences. The relationship between the events described and the fall of the Wall are clearly shown. The way these actions and measures are linked indicate a thorough understanding of the event. A little more explanation in each paragraph would have lifted this to an E8, but this is a really good example of an Excellence level essay.