

91231R



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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

Level 2 History 2021

91231 Examine sources of an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91231.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INTRODUCTION: DC day, money making 'cents'

New Zealand's early money system was the same as England's pounds, shillings, and pence. It was not an easy system to work with. With calls for change going back as early as 1908, the decision to convert New Zealand to decimal currency was officially announced in 1963. The date of changeover would be 10 July 1967.

It was important to prepare the public. On television, 'Mr Dollar,' who featured in catchy jingles and friendly advertisements, explained the changeover and ensured everyone was aware of the date. In schools, a 'Dollar Scholar Certificate' was awarded to children who could pass a simple decimal currency test.

Decimal Currency Day, 10 July 1967

All banks were closed from 3.00 p.m. Wednesday, 5 July until 10.00 a.m. Monday, 10 July 1967, to prepare for the changeover. Staff worked on Thursday and Friday to convert all figures in all records to decimal currency. From 10 July, every bank deposit slip, cheque, and withdrawal form had to be expressed in dollars and cents.

BNZ store notice advising of closure for DC changeover – 1967.

Why change?

- Calculations would be simpler and errors less likely – there were 12 pennies to 1 shilling and 20 shillings to 1 pound.
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- Australia had done it previously.

SOURCE A(i): Tenth of July, this year (2017)

New Zealand changed from pounds, shillings, and pence to dollars and cents fifty years ago, on 10 July 1967. The occasion is remembered as much for the nationwide advertising campaign that accompanied it as it is for New Zealand's adoption of decimal currency. At the centre of that campaign was Mr Dollar, decimal currency's jovial cartoon mascot.

Meet Mr Dollar

A number of people and agencies were involved in the creation of Mr Dollar. In 1965, the Government Publicity Department reported that, "experience in South Africa and Australia has proved the value of a cartoon character to assist in publicity – with uses in pamphlets, advertising, newsletters, and so on. The character needs to be versatile and reasonably sophisticated, as well as friendly and helpful".



Fifty years later, we take the decimal system for granted, but between 1966 and 1967, Mr Dollar's education campaign taught New Zealanders how to write the symbols of the new currency (\$ and ¢); how pounds, shillings, and pence would be converted to dollars and cents; and how to talk about the new money in *Dollars & cents and your business*, an official publication of the Decimal Currency Board in 1966. It advised that "a certain amount of abbreviation can be used. \$2.10 may be expressed as 'two dollars, ten', it being customary to omit the words 'and' and 'cents'. Confusion could be caused if abbreviations go too far. 'Two ten' is not sufficiently clear".

DC Day

On 10 July, New Zealand reached peak Mr Dollar. Not only was he in most daily newspapers; he was on most pages, reassuring the nation that the change to decimal currency would be straightforward. The previous week, the *New Zealand Woman's Weekly* devoted a large part of its magazine to decimal currency: there was a letter from Finance Minister Robert Muldoon ("To you ... women who handle the money"); a two-page article detailing the changeover; and a selection of meals that could be created for one dollar: "Turn dinner planning into a useful lesson in tallying your decimals".

Source (adapted): Benbow, H. (2017, July 10). Tenth of July, this year. *National Library of New Zealand*. <https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/tenth-of-july-this-year>

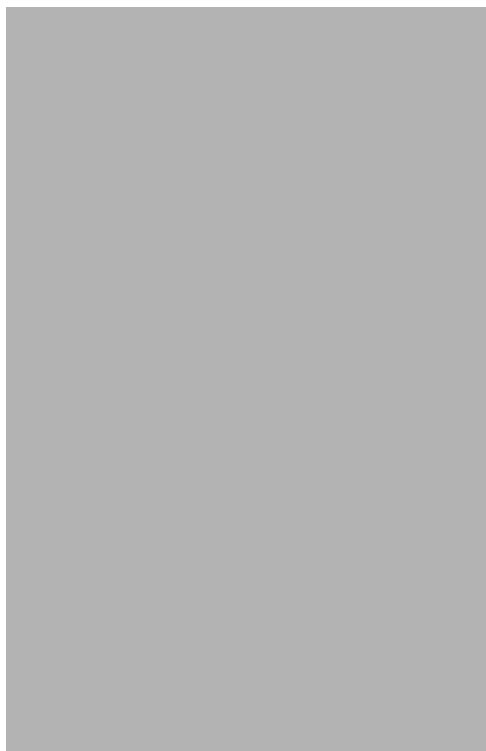
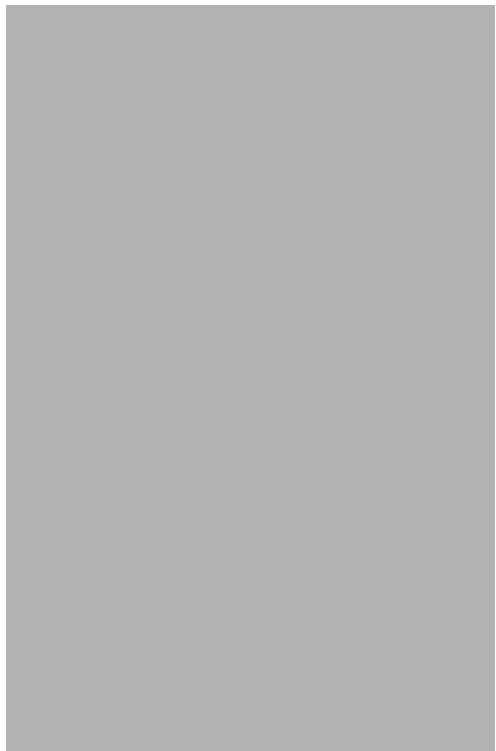
SOURCE A(ii): Decimal Currency and YOU: meet Mr Dollar!



Decimal Currency and
YOU: meet Mr Dollar!

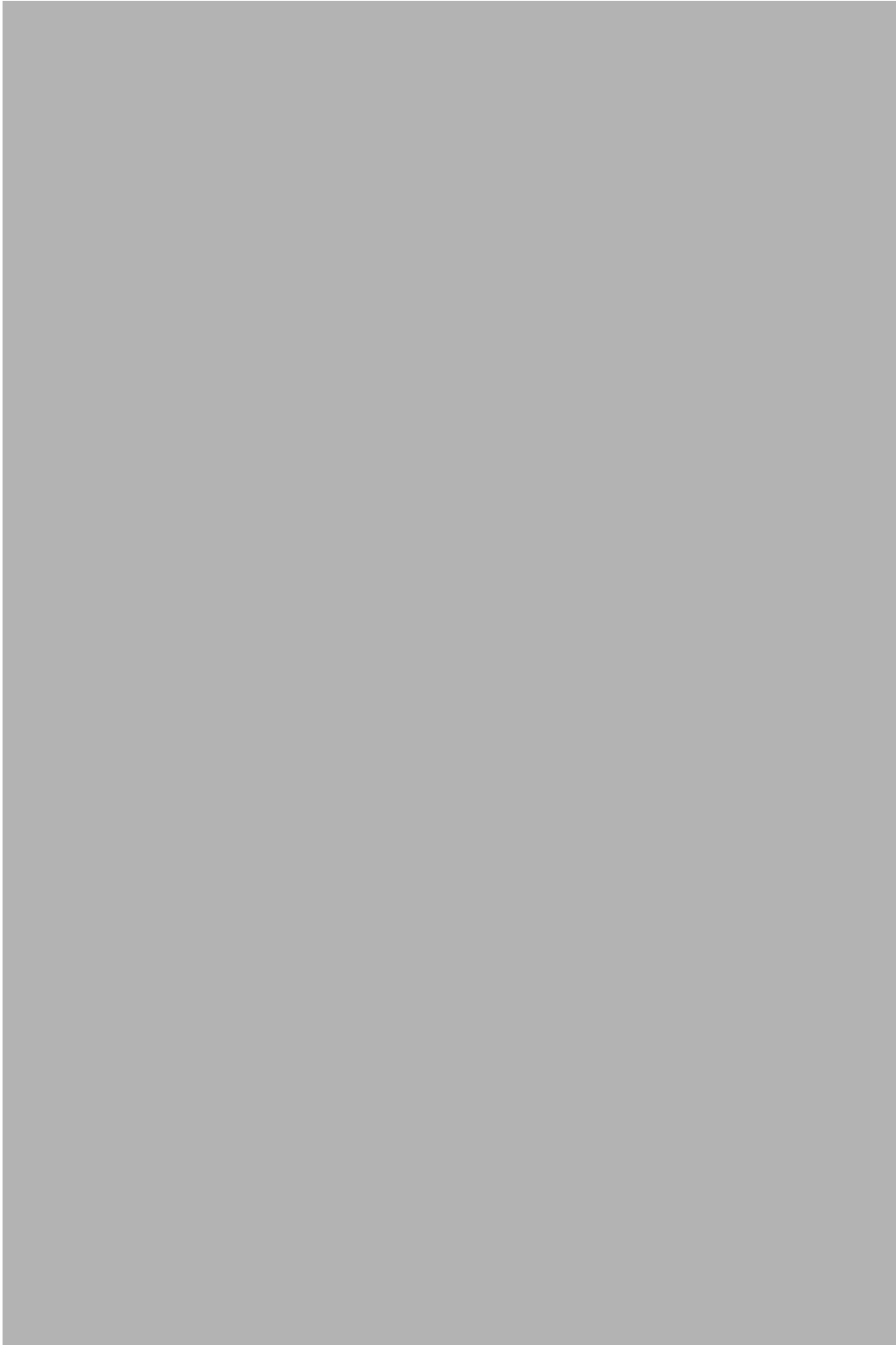
Source: New Zealand Decimal Currency Board (1967), *Decimal Currency and YOU: meet Mr Dollar!* Archives New Zealand, R21908413 from Benbow, H. (2017, July 10). Tenth of July, this year. *National Library of New Zealand*. <https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/tenth-of-july-this-year>

SOURCE A(iii): Māori Mr Dollar



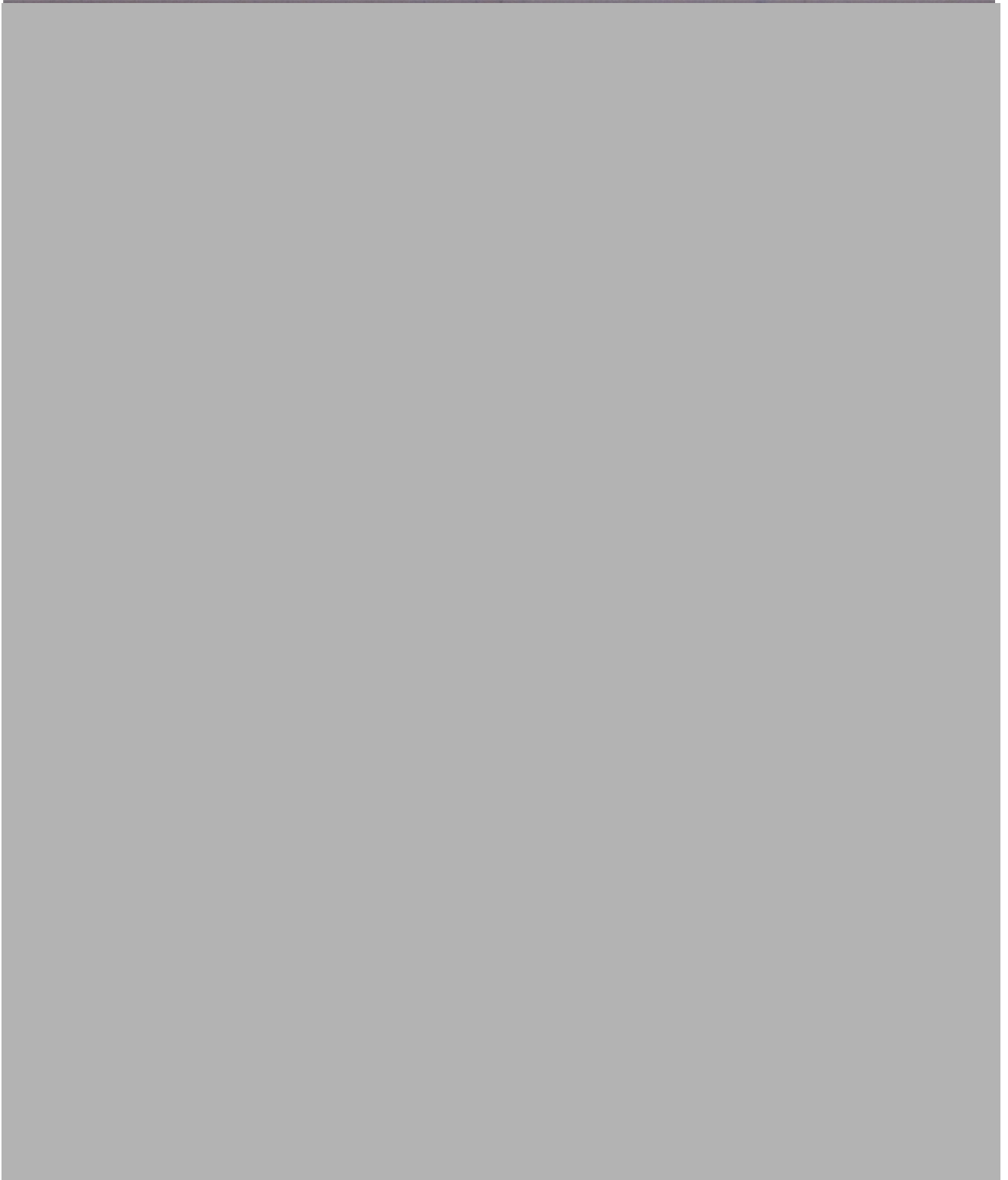
In New Zealand, a Māori 'Mr Dollar' was also designed, to target older Māori whose first language was Māori. Over 25,000 copies of this booklet were distributed through the district offices of the Department of Māori Affairs. Translated into English, the cover reads, 'Dollars and cents / New money for New Zealand / It will come into force on 10 July 1967'.

Source: Pollock, K. (2012, June 20). Coins and banknotes – Decimal currency, 1960s to 2000s. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/36399/maori-mr-dollar> and Benbow, H. (2017, July 10). Tenth of July, this year. *National Library of New Zealand*. <https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/tenth-of-july-this-year>

SOURCE B(i): Decimal Currency Board Advertisement, 1967

Changeover to decimal currency.

Source: Auckland Philatelic Society, Inc. New Zealand (2017). *Nipex 2017*. Auckland Philatelic Society. <http://www.aps.gen.nz/nipex2017.php>

SOURCE B(ii): Helpful hints for decimal shoppers

A Decimal Currency Board was set up to help with the transition to decimal currency. This tea towel, endorsed by the Board, helped housewives to convert the cost of products they were most interested in (cardigans, hairspray, and gloves ...) while they dried the dishes.

Source: Unknown designer (1967). *Tea Towel, 'New Zealand Dollars and Cents'*. Gift of Claire Regnault, 2012. Te Papa (GH017595), <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1297162>

SOURCE C(i): Commentary on Decimal Day

Commentary on today's big national fixture.

Source: Lodge, N. (1967, July 10). *Commentary on today's big national fixture* [Cartoon]. Evening Post. Ref: B-133-477. <https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/tenth-of-july-this-year>

SOURCE C(ii): Reserve Bank Chief Accountant destroys old money

Mr E. D. Vallence of the Reserve Bank feeds the furnace with redundant pounds sterling banknotes.

Source: Evening Post staff photographer (1968, July 19). *Sterling banknotes being destroyed, Wellington, New Zealand* [Photograph]. Dominion Post: Photographic negatives and prints of the Evening Post and Dominion newspapers. Ref: EP-Economy-Currency-02. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/23009207>

SOURCE D: Bucking the system: How 50 years of decimal currency shows the emergence of an independent nation

“Don’t shed a tear in July next year, for cumbersome pounds and pence,” the decimal currency song trilled out of TV sets in the mid-1960s.



Having previously been on all New Zealand banknotes, the Queen was suddenly relegated to the \$20 note only, prompting a bit of an outcry from some sections of the public who feared she might soon be left off entirely. Historian Noel Cox says the Reserve Bank was not making an anti-monarchy political statement. If anything, he said, its rather casual approach to the Queen reflected the attitudes of society.

SOURCE E(i): A litmus test for society: Reserve Bank decimal note designs 1967–2017

Banknotes are always designed with imagery relevant to the society ... symbolising the national identity of the issuing country.



Although decimalisation was a watershed in New Zealand's currency history, the note designs carried strong consistency at the conceptual level with those of Series 2 [pre-decimalisation]. This was because, once again, they were carefully developed to engage with prevailing mood and self-image; and New Zealand's self-perception had not moved particularly far in the years between 1937–40 and 1964–67.

SOURCE E(ii): Selection of New Zealand banknote designs 1940–Present



Series 2: 1940–1967

SOURCE E(ii): Selection of New Zealand banknote designs 1940–Present (continued)**Series 3: 1967–1981**

SOURCE E(ii): Selection of New Zealand banknote designs 1940–Present (continued)

Series 6: 1999–present

Source: Reserve Bank of New Zealand. *The history of banknotes in New Zealand*. <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/notes-and-coins/notes/the-history-of-banknotes-in-new-zealand>