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## Level 2 History, 2017

### 91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

2.00 p.m. Tuesday 14 November 2017  
Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Examine, in depth, causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively examine causes and consequences of a significant 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.

If you need more room for your 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

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event, using the essay task below.

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

You should provide context for your discussion by adding 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 TASK**

**Examine the causes of a significant historical event, and its positive and/or negative consequences.**

**Historical event:** Salem Witch Trials

## PLANNING

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Description of the historical event	
<p>Cause(s) of the event <span style="float: right;">1688 - New Paris</span></p> <p>500BC - Bible</p> <p>1400s - witchcraft erupts in Europe.</p> <p>1484 - Malleus Maleficarum</p> <p>1500 - Reformation</p> <p>1630 - Puritans leave for America</p> <p>1683 - Enlightenment</p> <p>1692 - Second war with Wabanaki</p> <p>1692 - Start of The trials</p> <p>1693 - end of trials</p> <p>1702 - Trials declared unlawful</p> <p>1703 - Use of spectral evidence disallowed.</p> <p>1711 -</p> <p>1760 - Blackstone Formulation.</p>	Examination/Evidence
Positive consequences of the event	Examination/Evidence
Negative consequences of the event	Examination/Evidence

Begin your essay here:

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The Salem Witch Trials, in Massachusetts, America, from 1692-1693, <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ an extremely significant historical event which revolutionised the legal system into what we know today. There were two main causes, the <sup>long</sup> religious history that condemned witches and shaped the beliefs and lifestyles of the Puritans, and the need for a scapegoat in Salem during times of trouble. The two main consequences were the immediate jailing and executions of accused witches, and the halting of the trials. The second consequence was the short and long term consequences to the legal system which shaped our system today.

The long term cause of the Salem Witch Trials was the rigid beliefs and religious history which 'started' in 560 BC when the Bible condemned witches. Then in the early 1400s accusations of witchcraft, plus mass ~~witch~~ hunts erupted in Europe. These <sup>hunts</sup> ~~actions~~ were perceived as <sup>what</sup> ~~act~~ God wanted seeing as witches were aligned with the Devil/<sup>sat</sup>~~sed~~. Due to this they were more than willing to 'carry out God's wishes' and hunt, jail and execute thousands of witches. In 1484 Pope Vincent VIII asked for a report on witches and witchcraft, and so the Malleus Maleficarum was published. It outlined <sup>what</sup> ~~what~~ witches were, how many types there <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ and what each type could do. <sup>This information was found out under torture by witch who were trying to save themselves</sup> There were 29 copies published and it became a witch hunters guide for the next 200 years. In the 1500s the Reformation occurred. The Reformation was when the church divided into Catholics and Protestants, and as a result of this people were very confused and superstitious. So naturally they blamed witches and the number of witchcraft accusations and executions increased significantly. The Puritans left Europe in 1630 to settle in America, which meant that they were not present when the Enlightenment occurred. The Enlightenment was when ideas of scepticism and reason were introduced and as a result witchcraft trials were halted.



and executions stopped. The Enlightenment failed to reach one group however (the Puritans who left for America). This meant that they still had the beliefs of the old ~~church~~ church and still blamed witchcraft for wrongdoings and still rigidly believed that witches were evil due to their allegiance with Satan. ~~Due to these beliefs~~ <sup>meant that</sup> Salem was very ~~much~~ <sup>a</sup> place that believed in witches and believed that the rightful punishment was death. ~~Because of these beliefs Salem was always going to blame~~ <sup>This long term history of witch hunting across Europe shaped</sup> the ~~witches~~ beliefs of the Puritans and ~~so~~ made the trials much more susceptible to happening.

In times of trouble people look for a scapegoat and that was exactly what Salem did. The immediate cause of the Salem Witch Trials was the three problems in Salem which made people look for a scapegoat. These three problems were the two Frontier Wars, the economic rivalries between Salem the two parts of Salem and the personal ~~lead~~ feud between the Porters and Putnams which mirrored the economic rivalry. The Frontier wars were two wars between the Native Americans and the English settlers. An early war had cost the settlers dearly with over 10% of their menfolk being killed the second war in 1697 was much closer to home, with the <sup>of the war</sup> edge being 50 north miles from ~~the~~ Salem. The war was fought against a local tribe the Wabanaki, who wanted <sup>to reclaim their</sup> land ~~back~~ after the settlers siezed it. Due to a series of military failures the Wabanaki had been allowed to move very close to Salem and threaten them. Judges and magistrates started looking for someone to blame and witches were the scapegoat. One man George Burroughs <sup>(former judge)</sup> was accused of witchcraft because he survived multiple brutal Wabanaki attacks, and he was accused of being in allegiance with the 'Red Devils'.



and Satan himself. The next problem was the economic rivalries between the two parts of Salem Village. One part was very traditional with its beliefs ~~and~~ and ideas, and they were generally the poorer part of Salem Village (mostly Putnam's). The other part was being more and more influenced by the words and beliefs of merchants and traders. This part of Salem was the richer side, more business orientated and was mostly Porters. This rivalry was mirrored by the  ~~rivalry~~ personal feud between the Putnam's and the Porters. This feud mirrored the economic rivalry because the Putnam's were poorer and thought that they could use accusations of witchcraft to gain land and wealth off the Porters who were richer. About 11 Putnam's were involved with accusations of witchcraft against the Porters. Reverend ~~the~~ Parris was Salem's 4th minister, <sup>he was appointed in 1689,</sup> and he helped the ~~incident~~ discontent reach a crisis point. He took the side <sup>of</sup> and supported the Putnam's in their ~~feud~~ feud against the Porters. He made several testimonies in court taking the side of the afflicted people and both his daughter and his niece were among the first afflicted girls. This need for a scapegoat <sup>in times of trouble</sup> ~~in Salem~~ was the immediate trigger for the Salem Witch Trials.

(1692-1693)

The ~~witch~~ Salem Witch Trials themselves <sup>lasted about a year and a half,</sup> ~~just more~~ and they were sparked when two girls, Abigail Williams and Elizabeth Parris, ~~were~~ were attacked by other people's spectres. Once taken to court the accused witch was given a chance to confess otherwise they would be executed. Once someone confessed they stated more names and so on until the accusations began to have a snowball effect. This resulted in many people being accused of witchcraft and if you confessed, you didn't get executed you were simply put in jail.



The immediate <sup>negative</sup> consequence of the Salem Witch Trials was the <sup>executions</sup> ~~deaths~~ and ~~imprisoning~~ of ~~24 people~~ many people. There were 19 people hung for witchcraft, one man, Giles Corey, was pressed to death because he would not confess to being guilty, nor would he plead his innocence, and four others died in prison. The trials were halted after several businessmen and ministers expressed concerns about the accusations. This came about after more and more richer and higher in society people were accused of witchcraft. Samuel Willard was minister who expressed concerns about the use of spectral evidence in his pamphlet called *Miscellany Observations*. Governor Phips wrote a letter to Whitehall in 1692 <sup>which</sup> ~~which~~ expressed his concerns about the use of spectral evidence in court. Although the trials were stopped in 1693, it came too little, too late for the 24 people who had ~~been~~ died.

The long term ~~positive~~ consequence of the Salem Witch Trials was the changes to the legal system that occurred as a result. In 1702 the trials were declared unlawful and in 1703 the use of spectral evidence was banned from court. This was due to the fact that only the afflicted person could see the spectre and ~~is~~ instead there had to be evidence that could be presented to the judge to prove that the accused was actually guilty. Increase Mather stated that "it's better that 10 guilty persons go free, ~~that~~ than one innocent person be condemned." This was later used in the Blackstone Formulation and it illustrates a change in thinking about how people are convicted of charges. The Fourth President, John Adams, stated "It is better that guilty people escape rather than innocence be punished, because in our society crime is always present and we cannot rid our society of this crime." This illustrates how the legal system has changed from guilty until proven innocent, to, innocent until proven guilty. This shows that

we would rather protect innocence over eliminating crime.

Overall the Salem ~~Witch~~ Witch Trials were an extremely significant event which revolutionised our legal system and what it is today. The two causes were the long religious history that condemned witches and shaped the beliefs and lifestyles of the Puritans, and the need for a scapegoat in times of trouble. While the second cause is important, the first one is the most important because had these beliefs not been shaped into what they were then it is likely the trials may not have happened. The two consequences were the execution and jailing of the accused and the short and long term changes to the legal system. This is the most important consequence because it shaped our legal system to be what it is today.



**Excellence Exemplar 2017**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Standard:</b>	<b>AS91233</b>	<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Excellence</b>
	<b>Grade score</b>	<b>Annotation</b>			
<b>3</b>	<b>07 – Excellence</b>	Two causes and two consequences have been provided. Both the causes and consequences have been examined comprehensively with detailed evidence and explanation which demonstrates insight. The comprehensive examination has been presented in a conventional essay structure which enhances the clear communication of the causes and consequences.			