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Level 2 History 2021

91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

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.

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 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (///). This area may be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

Low Merit

05

INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event, using the essay question 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 concise paragraph describing the historical event.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

ESSAY QUESTION

How do the consequences of your chosen event make it historically significant?

Historical event: **Dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

PLANNING

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 4–5 pages. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

Begin your essay here:

The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a key historical event as it was the first time an atomic weapon had been used in warfare. Key consequences that made this event significant include; the immediate aftermath, the arms race between the USA and USSR, and the Non-proliferation treaty and denuclearisation.

On the 6th and 9th of August 1945, the USA dropped an atomic bomb on first Hiroshima and then Nagasaki. Across the instant blasts an estimated 125,000 people died and a further 100,000 were injured. Most of both cities were destroyed. After the bombings, Japan surrendered unconditionally to bring an end to WW2 in the Pacific.

One consequence of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that made it significant was the immediate aftermath.

Hiroshima was an industrial hub that built supplies to fuel the Japanese war efforts, and had not been destroyed in previous bombing raids by the USA. In the instant flash/blast, on 6th August 1945, an estimated 80,000 died and a further 45,000 were injured. Furthermore everything within a 1.5 km radius of the bomb was flattened and the intense shock waves reached a further 1 km destroying many buildings with it. On the 9th August 1945, the USA dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki to ensure the unconditional surrender of the Japanese. Nagasaki was a target as it produced ammunition to fuel the Japanese war efforts. 1/3 of this city was destroyed and an estimated 45,000 were killed in the instant flash, and an estimated 25,000 were injured. The bombing in Nagasaki was not as devastating as the hilly surroundings of the city were able to protect it from further damage. As a long term consequence of the immediate blasts, many people who survived were exposed to radiation. In the decades to come many would become sick from radiation poisoning and die. As a result the life expectancy in Hiroshima is 81 years, when the life expectancy for Japan in total is 86 years. The world had become exposed to the devastating impacts of an atomic bomb and no one wanted to be left behind.

Another consequence of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that made it significant was the arms race between the USA and the USSR. The exposure of an atomic weapon to the USSR was threatening as they knew the USA did not want them to expand their communist ideologies to the Eastern world. As well as this much of the world became fearful of a nuclear attack on their own country. The USSR was a communist state where everything was owned by the government and had one party dictatorship, whereas the USA was capitalist where everything was privately owned and the people could vote to their leader. The two countries were the only remaining superpowers left after WW2 had come to an end in Europe. They were no longer allied to fight Germany,

and so they turned to war against each other. By the end of the 1940s the USSR had developed their own atomic bomb, and the USA was convinced that the USSR's weapon was better. In order to keep communism from spreading, the USA built up a stockpile of atomic weapons as a threat to the USSR. By 1960 the USA had over 18,000 atomic weapons when the world only held 20,000. However with the USSR's launch of the first satellite, Sputnik, into space in 1957 both superpowers, and their citizens, realised that an atomic weapon could be fired on a different trajectory to other countries. This would then eliminate the factors of weather into planning an atomic attack. By 1960, the USSR had developed the first inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM). The ICBM could be trajectoryed up to 5,600 km. The rise in nuclear stockpiling and fear led to the need to have a denunciation movement.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty and the denuclearisation movement was another consequence of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that made this event significant. By 1970 there were 5 nuclear states; USA, USSR, UK, France and China. These countries were able to get ahead in stockpiling atomic weapons, while other states were afraid of experiencing the same things as Japan had if they were not prepared. In 1968 the United Nations (UN) drafted up the Non-Proliferation Treaty with the means of limiting the advancement of nuclear weapons. When the treaty came into force in March 1970, 191 states had signed up including the 5 nuclear states. The purpose of this treaty was to control the use of nuclear energy, nuclear disarmament, and have peaceful use of nuclear energy. States were still allowed to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes such as medical treatment and electricity. Non-nuclear states were to continue disarmament, which some did not. This led to frustration within non-nuclear states as they would have liked to acquire atomic weapons for their own safety. There are also some other flaws to this treaty. The treaty cannot control non-signatory states like India, Israel and Pakistan who are able to hold their nuclear weapons for security. As well as this Iran seems to be convening up their nuclear advancement as a power plant. Furthermore, the treaty is unable to address threats from terrorist groups. Today there are still 10,000 nuclear warheads, which is about 1/5 of the amount 50 years ago.

An event of historical significance was the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Consequences of this event that made it significant include; the immediate aftermath, the arms race between the USA and USSR, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty and denuclearisation movement.

Merit Exemplar 2021

Subject	L2 History		Standard	91233	Total score	05
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
1	M5	<p>The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945)</p> <p>The candidate demonstrates examination of a significant historical event in depth by presenting sufficiently accurate, valid, and detailed supporting evidence to examine how two or more consequences make it historically significant. For example, in paragraph three, the first consequence covering the aftermath of the bombings provides figures for both cities of the numbers of people killed and injured, and buildings destroyed; it also includes context specific language such as “aftermath”, “industrial”, “flash/blast”, “shock waves”, “unconditional surrender”, “radiation poisoning”, and “life expectancy”.</p> <p>The main idea of “immediate aftermath” is developed over a sequenced series of points, with the candidate taking care to establish causal links, such as the reasons for the bombing of each city and why the damage to Nagasaki was less severe. Historical significance is established by citing the numbers of people affected at the time and by explaining the long-term impacts of radiation poisoning on life expectancy. The explanation might have been given more perceptive depth of understanding by positioning the bombings in contexts of race, historical precedent, or the legitimacy of civilian targets.</p>				