

Examples of candidates coursework with commentary

GCSE History Pilot

OCR GCSE in History Pilot: J938/J038

Coursework units

This handbook is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE History Pilot specification for teaching from September 2009.

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UNIT B872 LOCAL HISTORY INVESTIGATION: SAMPLE 1

“How far do you agree that Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert deserves to be commemorated in Bodmin more than James Henry Finn?”

Commentary

The candidate has been encouraged to adopt a comparative and explanatory approach through a question that requires comparing the relative worth of two contrasting local figures. Even so, there might still have been a temptation to devote most of the answer to biographies or narrative. This candidate has not done that. The response attempts a valid comparison and, although there is some repetition, it is generally well focused and relevant. A number of sources and interpretations have also been utilised and subjected to critical appraisal, although this is a little mechanistic and simplistic at times, eg. assuming a local historian is bound to be more reliable than a newspaper.

The significance of both past and present is considered and the candidate is not afraid of making judgements about the relative worth of both candidates even if these are often based on everyday emotions and lack real maturity. The points made are often substantiated. Better candidates might have ended up less clear cut in their judgements by recognising better the context of their ages and circumstances, and the evaluation of source utility and reliability might have been a little less mechanistic. Despite this, however, a genuinely comparative and explanatory approach has been adopted with efficient deployment of much of the material.

Mark: High Band 4: 42

How far do you agree that Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert deserves to be commemorated in Bodmin more than James Henry Finn?

In my opinion James Henry Finn deserves to be commemorated more than Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert in Bodmin today. Gilbert was a Bodmin- born- soldier that made a career of it. He fought in the Punjab campaign and defeated the Sikhs, who surrendered their swords to him. Nowadays, the national monument to him is in his hometown of Bodmin, Cornwall.

James Henry Finn was a Cornishman who later moved to Downing Street, Bodmin. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery, after going into 'no man's land' and saving wounded soldiers on several occasions within the First World War. Finn V.C. Estate was named in his honour and still stands where Downing Street used to be.

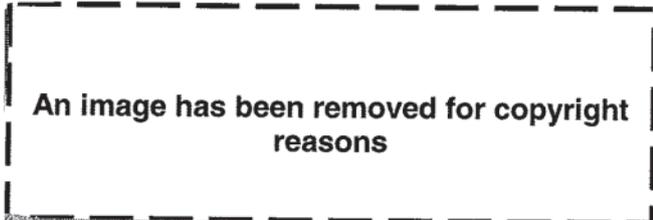
At the time of the First World War JH Finn repetitively saved the lives of dying and wounded soldiers, whereas Gilbert killed many lives rather than saving them. On several occasions Finn went out to 'no man's land' under heavy fire. Then, after failing to find a stretcher carried the wounded soldier on his back to safety. This is proven by 'The War Illustrated' publication, 6th January 1917. Although this painting was created at the time of the event it is not the most reliable source. The main reason for this is that the artist of the painting would have been in Britain, where the publication was published- so would not have had a full understanding of the events that occurred. Another reason is that the artist might have twisted the picture to get readers for the publication, which would mean he was biased towards Finn to make it look like everyone was like that and the war was a pleasant experience. Whereas, according to a modern historian "Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert and his men are responsible for the deaths of between 2000 and 3000 Sikhs". However this source might not be reliable either because the modern historian wouldn't have been there at the time of the events at Gujarat. But, the fact that he is a historian would suggest that he has based his comments on facts that he has researched or found out from people there at the time. The 'Wikipedia' entry for The Battle of Gujarat also backs up this point by saying,

Page 58 The War Illustrated, 6th January 1917 How Private Fynn Won the Coveted Cross

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“The British at Gujarat showed no mercy to surrendered or fleeing enemies.” This may not be reliable because anybody can add to the entry on the ‘Wikipedia’ website. Putting this aside, most of the entry was taken from reliable websites outside the Wikipedia site.

Another reason for thinking that James Henry Finn is more worthy of commemoration than Gilbert is that Finn is still remembered by the residents of Bodmin to this day. The site where Finn used to live, Downing Street in Bodmin, has recently been renamed, in his honour, to ‘Finn VC Estate’. This has benefited many residents of Bodmin by giving them a home. Also, most people within Bodmin know that the estate exists and who it is commemorating. I knew this because I conducted a questionnaire that asked this. 4 out of 5 people on my questionnaire have at least heard about the estate. This is in contrast to Gilbert where, according to my questionnaire, only 1 out of 5 has read the inscription on the side of the monument on Beacon Hill. This proves that more people benefit and know about Finn within Bodmin today.



I also think that lives are still affected positively through Finn’s actions whereas they aren’t for Gilbert. Today, James Henry Finn is used as an example of bravery for people within the army. He is also part of the GCSE course at Bodmin- which would suggest that he is a figure of importance. Gilbert is also part of the GCSE at Bodmin but the main reason that Gilbert’s actions have affected people within the present day is that they led to the Rules of war being written. This must mean that his actions were negative to have such rules put into place.

James Henry Finn’s actions have lasted longer than Gilbert’s. Gilbert’s actions only lasted from when the Sikhs surrendered their swords to him to when we lost the Sikh empire in 1947. However, Finn’s life and actions have contributed to an increased understanding of present life. The main reason for me thinking this is that we are still fighting for freedom and democracy throughout the world.

Finn took action in Mesopotamia (Iraq) within the First World War whereas Gilbert just gave orders in the 19th century, within the Battle of Chillianwala. Finn’s father was sent a letter from his Lt Col., Commanding 4th South Wales Borderers, C.E. Kitchen. This suggests that he was a person of great significance. Part of the letter says, “I know that he has saved many lives by rendering first aid to his wounded comrades.” I trust this source because C.E. Kitchen would have witnessed the events in Mesopotamia first hand. Another reason for trusting this source is the fact that his father was actually sent the letter- meaning that Finn must have been of some importance to his regiment, the South Wales Borderers. For part of the letter to be re-printed in the November issue of the North and Mid Cornwall Advertisers the author of the article, Peter Davies, must have thought that he was significant enough for the people of, not just Bodmin, but the majority of Cornwall to know about. Within this article Peter Davies has used many phrases that gives his opinion on James Henry Finn V.C. For example, “James Henry Finn V.C., an exceptionally brave young man”. This source seems quite reliable, as a local historian has written it and not the publisher of the newspaper. This suggests that he has based his assumptions on facts after researching Finn and not exaggerating to sell the publication. Even though Peter Davies wouldn’t have been in Mesopotamia during the First World War, I think that a

historian, like him, would have read accounts of people that would have witnessed the events.

Finn's actions contributed more to the time of the event more than Gilbert's did. Finn saved several lives in Mesopotamia in the First World War. We know this because the Wikipedia entry for J H Finn states "He carried a badly wounded man back to safety." Although anybody can add to the entry on Wikipedia, I trust this source because it is not the only place that it says this. Finn also won the Victoria Cross for bravery which would have kept morale high in the British camp. However, Gilbert showed no mercy at The Battle of Gujarat according to a Modern British Historian. This would have done the opposite for morale. This is without the fact that according to the same historian, "his men are responsible for the deaths of between 2000 and 3000 Sikhs".

With all of this in mind I conclude that Finn fought for freedom while Gilbert fought to conquer and for control. Finn saved the lives of others whereas Gilbert destroyed the lives of between 2,000 and 3,000 Sikhs. Finn's actions have also helped people in the modern era- with the building of Finn VC Estate. Finn's actions have lasted longer than Gilbert's. So overall, I believe that James Henry Finn should be commemorated more in Bodmin today than Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert.

Bibliography

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Modern British historian (Anonymous)

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UNIT B872 LOCAL HISTORY INVESTIGATION: SAMPLE 2

“Are the practice trenches at Bodelwyddan still significant today?”

Commentary

An interesting assignment that has attracted interest from as far away as Canada. The theme offers scope for a real probing of the meaning and significance of the trenches and their context. The candidate partly succeeds.

The response starts promisingly with an efficient account of the nature of the trenches, their importance and current status but then partly loses its way. It becomes rather scrap-bookish in places with isolated sections on new technology, Remembrance Day and changes after World War 1. By this stage, the link with the local remains of trenches seems quite tenuous and is certainly not made explicit in the account. For example, there is no obvious link between the specific title and a picture of women working in an aircraft factory during World War 1. A few sources are used but largely illustratively. Things improve towards the end. The summary does contain a valid, worthwhile if unsophisticated judgement on current significance and the last section (the letter) does illustrate the importance of some of the local issues in a wider context.

Overall, though, the selection of material could have been stronger and more explicit consideration could have been given to the significance (using criteria to measure it) at the time and today. There may even have been an opportunity for a local survey on what the graves and trenches mean to the local community today.

Mark: Mid Band 4: 38

Bodelwyddan Practice Trenches

In the Bodelwyddan area there are the best-preserved practice trenches from world war one. These trenches were dug in Bodelwyddan so the soldiers in the nearby military camp would get a realistic idea of what it would be like on the front line. To make it even more realistic and to get the soldiers used to the kind of noises they would experience, live shells would be fired towards the trenches. The practice trenches had the front line firing trench, communication trenches, the support trenches and the reserve trench, which was exactly how it would be in the real war areas. This way the soldiers were familiar with the layout of the trenches for when they got to the front line.

The Bodelwyddan practice trenches have a CADW preservation order to make sure farmers or people wanting to build on the land do not destroy them and so anyone who is interested can see them and see what the world war one soldiers had to endure. The Bodelwyddan trenches are very similar to the real ones dug out all over Europe, even though some have been destroyed.



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Bodelwyddan trenches

The CADW preservation order on these trenches means that they will never be built on and therefore a part of our history will always be there

for everyone to see. People in the area will remember these trenches because they are significant to what happened during the war.

The new technology

During the first World war many new technologies were made to help advance each side, some of the technologies include the machine gun, barbed wire, tanks, medical advancement, canned food and artillery.

Hiram Maxim created the machine gun; it was capable of firing a lot of bullets per second. Machine guns were used by both sides to quickly stop any enemy advancement. The use of machine guns inflicted heavy casualties

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Joseph F. Glidden created barbed wire, which was used to line the top of trenches to reduce the chances of enemies getting into the trenches. If a soldier got caught in the barbed wire it was very brutal and it was very difficult for them to escape, especially when being fired upon.

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Tanks were created by Lancelot de Mole. Tanks were capable of going behind enemy lines easily because they could withstand small arms fire and shrapnel.. The tracks were good for going over muddy land like no man's land and could even withstand barbed wire.

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The medical advancement produced portable x-ray machines, splints, skin grafts, transporting blood, improvement and searches for an effective way to fight infection which all helped to improve the success rate of removing shrapnel or bullets, blood transfusions, repairing broken bones and reducing infection and thereby improving the survival rate amongst the injured soldiers.

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Canned food was used to make food storable and last longer, this was a big help because they could be stored for months without rotting or creatures getting at the food.

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The artillery were big guns capable of firing shells at a distance which were capable of destroying a lot of people, trenches and dug outs with a direct hit.

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All these new technologies have resulted in a change and have affected the future. Improvements in such areas as medical advancements were

very important, as it meant more injured soldiers would be saved than would have been the case if these medical advancements had not been made. Canned food meant that the soldiers had long lasting food. If world war one had not happened, some of these technological advances might not have been made.

The Trench System

The trenches are in a zigzag shape because the enemies couldn't see more than 10ft ahead. They were used to stop either side advancing to behind the enemy lines but using the trenches meant that the war was stalemate, which means neither side could win. Only if the tactics changed could any side win.

The different types of trenches are:

Front line firing trench

This trench is where some of the soldiers fought from, whether it was shooting at the enemies or going over the top.

Support trench

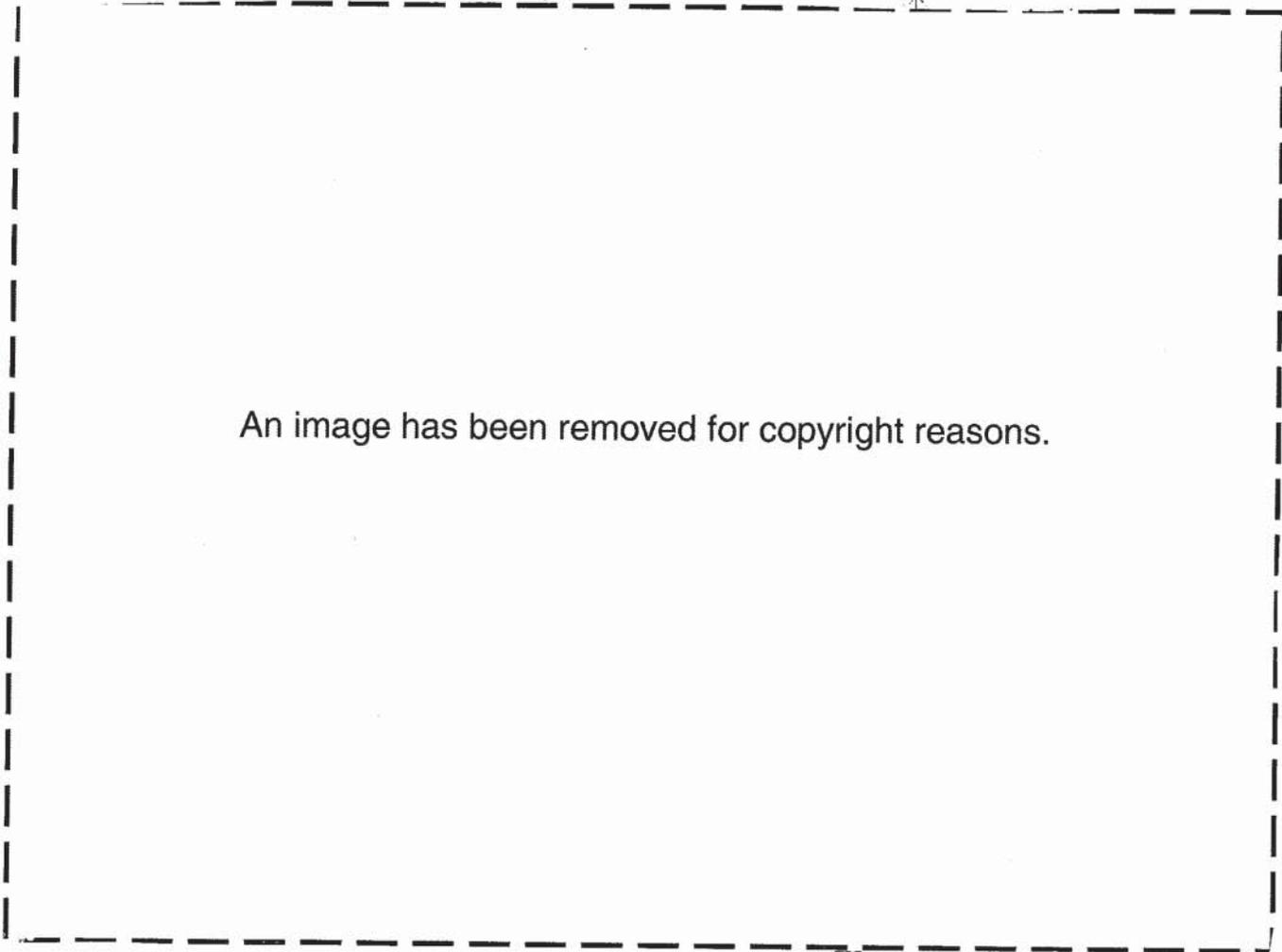
These trenches are where some of the soldiers stayed in case they were needed in the front line firing trench.

Communication trenches

These trenches were used to send more soldiers, food & drink, information and orders from the different trenches.

Reserve trench

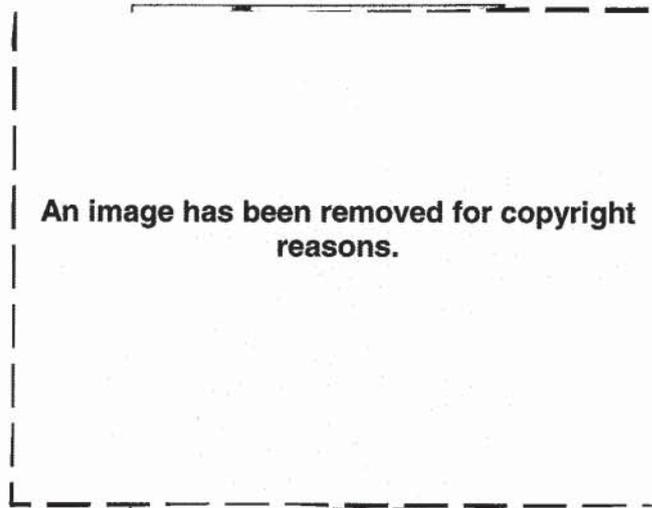
This trench is where the higher rank officers stay and give the orders to the front line firing trench and support trench, some soldiers will be on a little break from the front line firing trench.



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Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is the closest Sunday to 11th November. The significance of 11th November is that it was the day the First World War ended. We have Remembrance Day to honour the soldiers killed in all wars and to ensure we never forget those that have died fighting for our freedom. Every Remembrance Day the Queen will put a wreath of poppies on the cenotaph in London to remember the soldiers.

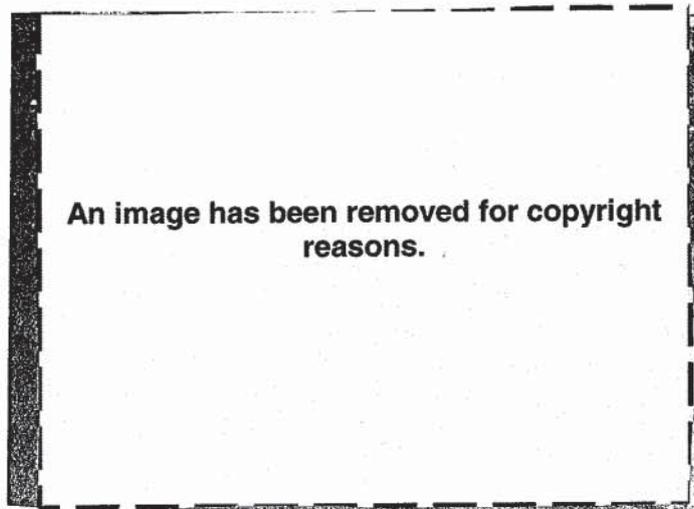


Poppies are sold during Remembrance Day because they were the only things that grew on the battlefield and the money raised goes to a charity for the soldiers that fight or have fought in wars.

Remembrance Day is remarkable because every country in the world that was involved in the wars celebrates it.

Changes after World War 1

After the World War women were aloud to vote because during the war while the men were fighting the women worked in factories doing the jobs the men would have done. This is resulting in change because before the world war women could only do the housework, after the world war they could vote and could get jobs but they were paid a lower salary than men.

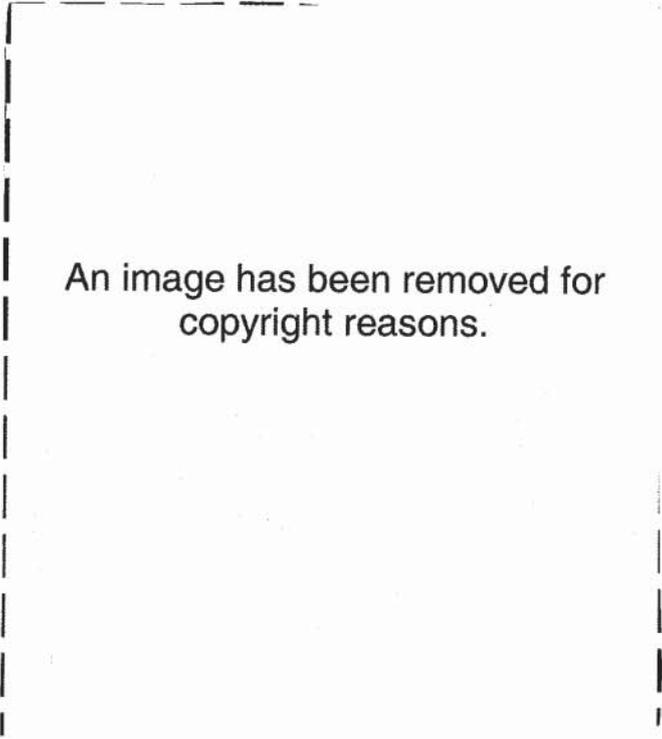


This picture shows the women working in an airplane factory during World War 1.

Some medical changes were made after the war such as x-rays were more common to check for broken bones and splints were used to heal the broken bones this is resulting in change because today these things are now more advanced but without these things being used in World War 1 we wouldn't have been able to evolve these things.

The experiences of trench warfare

Living in the trenches was hard for the soldiers due to the horrors that they faced while in the trenches such as the poor living conditions, cold, wet mud, which made life in the trenches a real unpleasant struggle. Many soldiers had to live in a small area surrounded by drenched mud and rats eating either the dead bodies that were lying around or the left over food. Also due to the poor living conditions soldiers were also prone to catch diseases such as 'trench foot'. This was very terrifying for the soldiers because they had to live with all these things on a daily basis whilst at the same time withstanding enemy fire. It is very hard for me to imagine what it would be like if I was one of the soldiers facing those things.



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copyright reasons.

This is a diary extract of a soldier who lived in the trenches and saw the horrors of dead bodies lying in the trench.

“The date was July 27th 1916. We were bivouacked in a valley near Fricourt, a place of vast mine craters in virgin chalk. I remember clambering about them, trying to stop my imagination from recreating the sensations of the troops who once had occupied trenches there. Lying about were bits of equipment, clothing, bodies. God! Imagination was not needed. The thing was reconstructed before my eyes”

Summary

In my conclusion the practice trenches at Bodelwyddan are very significant because they help us remember how terrifying war is and how real it was for the soldiers involved in it. It gives us just a glimmer into what life was like for a world war one soldier and the kind of horrors they faced, bearing in mind how young many of the soldiers were.

World war one is part of our history and is probably known by everyone. Some of the new technologies changed the way war was fought and had far reaching consequences. War affects everyone, not just those fighting but those left at home. Soldiers may come home uninjured but may still have psychological scars from all the horrors they witnessed

Dear Desmond Morton

My name is _____ and I am studying History at Rhyl High School, Rhyl, North Wales, which is very near to Bodelwyddan. I do agree that around the time of World War 1 it was a dangerous time to live in, not just because of the war itself, where millions lost their lives because of injuries sustained in battle but also because of the many illnesses that were common at that time. Also, other disasters, natural and man-made, took place that caused high numbers of fatalities. For example in a coalmine near Wrexham 265 men died in an explosion. At sea, ships didn't have the technology we have today to help with navigation and weather forecasting. Medicines were not as readily available on the scale they are today to treat the many various illnesses. So whereas today, people can be treated and survive many illnesses, in those days they were almost certain to die. Health and Safety at work was probably not something that was considered as important as it is today. In today's work place, health and safety is extremely important and there are lots of laws governing what measures employers have to take to protect their employees, whereas this was not the case in the around the time of World War 1.

The importance of the war to Canada is that before the war they were a pioneering country but joined the war because they felt close to Britain. Canada also spent 100 days pushing the Germans back. Today Canada is recognised as a G8 country, which means it is one of the 8 most important and powerful countries in the world. Canada taking part in the World War resulted in a change because after the war they became recognised and respected as a new and stronger sense of Canadian identity in our country.

I also agree with you about the film "Going Home". It didn't show what we know happened in the riots, but that is mainly because the truth was either never told or no one knew the truth about what had really happened there.

Although, I have learnt about different issues that can be linked to the Canadian graves at Bodelwyddan's marble church, such as the "Spanish Flu" influenza which killed the majority at

Kinmel Camp. The Spanish Flu will be remembered because of the massive number it killed which was more than World War 1. Today we have the threat of "Bird Flu" which if not contained will spread as quickly as the "Spanish Flu" did.

Also I have learnt about Kinmel Camp riots and their impact on people's lives today. The riots are significant to the graves because a few of the Canadians that are buried there had a big influence in the riot.

I have also learnt about Vimy Ridge and how well the Canadians fought there and what an important part it is of Canadian history. The French had given Canada the land that was Vimy Ridge to build a war memorial because France was so grateful that Canada won. Vimy Ridge was the only time that all the Canadian forces actually fought together and I also know that they used tactics to take Vimy Ridge, unlike other battles where the soldiers would just run at the enemy.

Finally I have learnt about Rebecca McIntosh and what she did with her life. She lived in a secluded village in Canada and came to Britain to be a nurse in the Canadian army. She started work in an Indian hospital in Brighton then moved to Kinmel Camp, which is where she caught the "Spanish Flu", and died.

Sincerely

UNIT B872 LOCAL HISTORY INVESTIGATION: SAMPLE 3

Should the D-day slipways at Beacon Quay play a significant role in the development of Torquay's heritage industry?

Commentary

A good piece of work probing the significance at the time of D-day in the context of the Second World War, the role played by Torquay and the current situation. The significance today is often a weaker element of local history work but this assignment addresses this strongly. Although the conclusion is rather a negative one in that the current significance is limited, the background to the lack of importance in the slipways and the degree of ignorance are examined thoroughly.

The viewpoints of a range of stakeholders have been analysed including veterans, local people, the Council and English Heritage, and the candidate has not been afraid to come to judgements including comparing attitudes towards the slipway with other local developments. Personal reflection is a fairly strong feature of this assignment. The wider context is also not ignored. Although criteria for significance are not identified explicitly, the candidate does discuss three key World War II events – the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Atlantic as well as D-day - and assesses their relative importance particularly as “turning points”. This discussion also shows a recognition of the interlinkage of events.

Overall the work is well written with a sizeable amount of analysis. The issue of significance permeates most of the work and the conclusion is a valid one following logically from the evidence provided. It is clear that the candidate has been motivated and engaged by this activity. This written assignment was also accompanied by some pictorial and diagrammatic material on the local situation including surviving evidence.

Mark: High Band 5: 49

Torquay Slipways

Should The D-day Slipways at
Beacon Quay play a significant
role in the development of
Torquay's heritage industry?

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Coursework Assessment 1

Local History

In my History essay I will be writing about the Second World War and its significance to Great Britain today. In my History lessons I have been investigating the affect that the Second World War had on Great Britain. I will be writing about the Battle of Britain and its significance to the outcome of the Second World War. I will also include the Battle of the Atlantic and whether I consider it to be significant. I will be including D-day in my essay also; many people have called D-day "The most important day" and I will be explaining why. There were many turning points in the Second World War but these three were the most significant and also the three that I have been studying. In the dictionary , significance means important and having a meaning and I am going to try and prove that these three turning points are of great significance.

A turning point is an event that changes everything including history. The Battle of Britain was a very significant turning point for Britain as it stopped Germany's invasion. In 1940 Hitler called for an attack on the R.A.F which he codenamed as "Operation Sealion". Unfortunately for Hitler, Britain's biggest advantage was the British Channel which saved Britain from an attack on foot from Germany. Hitler's aim was to defeat the R.A.F because if he defeated them he would have control of the skies and would be able to use the Luftwaffe (Germany's air force) to protect his boats from attack as they sailed the Channel to invade Britain. However, the R.A.F was ready and, thus, fought the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain which lasted from July 1940 to September 1940. Just 800 R.A.F fighter planes stood between Britain and invasion.

Then on the 7th of September 1940 Hitler changed tactics and decided to send the Luftwaffe to bomb some of Britain's largest cities, especially London hoping to scare Britain to surrender. However, quite the opposite happened, which became the turning point of the Battle of Britain . Although Hitler did bomb London every night for 50 days which was named The Blitz it also gave the determined R.A.F time to rest, rebuild planes and train pilots ready for Hitler's next attack.

The Battle of the Atlantic was also a significant part of the war. "It was the only thing that ever frightened me" was what Winston Churchill said at the end of the war. It was a turning point for Britain. If Britain had lost then the country would have had to surrender to Hitler. The Battle of the Atlantic was fought under water in submarines or U-boats as the German's called them. Most German soldiers called the U-boats "Steel coffins". Hitler's plan was to starve Britain into surrender. If Britain had lost, Germany would have had a clear path to Britain.

Germany was winning the war at the beginning of the Battle of the Atlantic. In 1940 Admiral Reader said "Britain's ability to maintain her supply lines is the decisive factor for the outcome of the war". In 1942 Hitler was using 1159 U-boats to cut off Britain's food supply. 1942 was the most successful year for Germany but their reliance on U-boats would be a main part of their downfall. In 1943 Destroyers became more accurate at finding the U-boats, using radars to track them and sonar to echo the U-boats location because the U-boats travelled in wolf packs so they were easier to track and destroy. By 1944 Germany was losing and that was a significant time for Britain during the war.

Each of these facts are linked because if Churchill had not been elected Prime Minister there might not have been a Battle of Britain, also, without Britain winning the Battle of Britain there would have been no Battle of the Atlantic. If any of these three things hadn't have happened it would have changed British history and it is that fact that makes these three turning points extremely significant.

Most historians call D-day "The most important day in British 20th Century history". It was a win or lose situation. If D-day had gone wrong historians say that the war could have lasted much longer. The outcome of the war rested upon D-day and it's success. That is what makes D-day such a significant day for British history. D-day is linked to the Battle of Britain and the Battle of the Atlantic because if either of those battles had been lost there wouldn't have been a D-day. If the Battle of the Atlantic had become a German victory then Britain would have had to surrender, therefore Germany would have invaded Britain and D-day would not have happened. The war could have ended at the Battle of the Atlantic if Britain had not won. If the Luftwaffe had defeated the R.A.F in the Battle of Britain there would have been no Battle

of the Atlantic and there would have definitely been no D-day.

D-day took 2 years of planning before Britain was ready to take action. Supreme Commander Eisenhower was in command of Operation Overlord; of which D-day was a part of. D-day was supposed to have happened on the 5th of June rather than the 6th but due to bad weather Commander Eisenhower decided to postpone it one more day; although the weather was no better on the 6th, D-day could not have waited any longer. To ensure that D-day was as successful as possible, Britain tried to trick Hitler into believing that Allies were landing on Pas de Calais. Allies set up a mock invasion camp in Kent, with pretend wooden tanks and smoky camp fires also the Allies bombed Pas de Calais; all to try and trick Hitler into believing that the invasion was there instead of Normandy; this worked, by the time Hitler realised that the attack was really in Normandy it was too late, by that point most Allies were already on the beaches and German soldiers couldn't get them off. The 5 beaches that Allies landed on were called Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword; Omaha was the worst beach and was nicknamed "Bloody Omaha" after D-day. This event was clearly shown in the movie "Saving Private Ryan"

Torquay also played an important part in the Second World War although there are no history books that mention Torquay's role. The event that most people will probably remember is the St Mary Church bombing; 21 children died when a German plane bombed Torquay and the children took shelter in the church. Torquay became an American camp for American soldiers preparing for D-day. Torquay Community College also became an American camp and they used the fields to set up tents. The slipways are the only proof Torquay has that D-day happened and that Torquay played a small part in it. The British Royal Engineers built the slipways; Tom Scott is the only member still alive that built the slipways.

Back in 2001 Torbay Council wanted to knock down the slipways because they had got an engineer to look at the slipways; they said that the slipways were not safe and should not be used by the public. However English Heritage stepped in to make the slipways a grade II listing to stop the council from knocking them down; the Minister for Culture from the Government sent a letter of thanks to the veterans association for getting the English Heritage to give the slipways a grade II listing

because the Government didn't want the slipways to be knocked down either. Also 7,000 people in the United States of America signed a petition to keep the slipways and to try and ensure their safety from being knocked down. Milton ""Bud Cripem is a D-day veteran who said "These slipways are a link between our two countries, just like the steps at Plymouth that the Pilgrim Fathers walked down, our boys came down there and they didn't know what they were going to. That was the last view some of them had of the civilised world because when they hit the beaches, they died". This quote clearly shows the true emotion that surrounds those slipways. To the veterans, they are not only a memorial to a great day but also a memorial to a great loss.

Two years later in 2003 the Torbay Council decided to keep the slipways; although the grade II listing from English Heritage made it almost impossible for them to do much else with the slipways. However, Torbay Council would not open the slipways to the public because of their insistence that the slipways are unsafe, they planned to make them a tourist attraction. Torbay Council planned a construction of an overhead boardwalk of glass to be placed over the slipways. However, 5 years later this construction still has not taken place.

I have studied what various interest groups think about the slipways, including; American veterans, Torbay Council and local people. My research shows me that the American veterans think that the slipways should be preserved, 7,000 people in the United States signed a petition to keep the slipways, and in total 16,000 people signed it. The Torbay Council wanted to destroy the slipways but two years later they changed their mind and, under the eye of English Heritage, decided to make the slipways a tourist attraction but, so far, no plans have been put into action. I also decided to go down to the local town and asked some local people about the slipways and D-day; less than half of the people I asked knew the exact date on which D-day took place. In fact, most people looked uninterested when I asked them if they think the slipways should be re-opened and I was shocked to find out that a few locals didn't even know the slipways existed.

However, Torbay Council's ignorance of the slipways made me less surprised to find out that some people didn't even know they existed. Over ten years ago Torbay Council spent millions of

pounds to redevelop Beacon Quay; but this redevelopment was bad news for the slipways. Whilst everything else was remade Torbay Council decided, yet again, to ignore the slipways. In fact, Torbay Council made it even harder to notice the slipways at all. They placed a brand new fence along the edge of the walkway, they even put a warning sign on the side of one of the slipways saying "Danger!".

The slipways look as though they are in almost perfect condition, but they have not been properly maintained, it is said that it would cost over one million pounds to ensure the slipways are completely maintained. I think that if more was done to promote the slipways existence then they could become a valuable tourist attraction. More signs should be placed around Beacon Quay about the slipways. The slipways aren't even mentioned in Torquay Museum. Torbay Council could even hold a fund raiser event to try and raise money to ensure the slipways are maintained, other than making money this would also help local people to realise the slipways importance and, if promoted properly, the slipways could help in Torquay's Heritage Industry. Rather than ignoring the slipways Torbay Council could very well use them to their advantage, by creating more notice boards with more information on the slipways and how Torquay played such a significant part in World War Two. Torquay Museum could also help by having a display on the slipways and D-day. Many things could be done to help the slipways instead of just waiting for them to crumble into the sea; which could take over 100 years.

In my conclusion I will now be answering the question "Should the D-day slipways at Beacon Quay play a significant role in the development of Torquay's heritage industry?". My answer is yes, the D-day slipways should play a very significant role in Torquay's heritage industry; I say this because the slipways are very significant. They are significant locally, nationally and even internationally. The slipways are part of Torquay's local history, they are proof that Torquay played such an important part in the Second World War; thousands of American Allies set sail from those slipways, most of them never came back. The slipways are so significant because they are the most important monument for the most important day in 20th century. They are important nationally because those slipways helped Britain win the war against Germany, without those slipways Allies could not have

invaded Normandy and the war would have continued; Britain could have even lost. Also the slipways are very significant internationally because of all the American soldiers who used those slipways to fight for Britain; most of those soldiers knew that they would never return to America; they knew that they would die fighting. The slipways are the best preserved monument that changed the world. In 5-10 years time I would like to see the slipways being preserved properly or even up and running for the public again. I would like to see more information about the slipways on the Beacon Quay walkway so that people who are interested in Torbay's local history can find out more about Torquay's role in the Second World War and what an important part the slipways played. To conclude; I think that the Torquay slipways are very significant in many different ways.

Torquay

Slipways

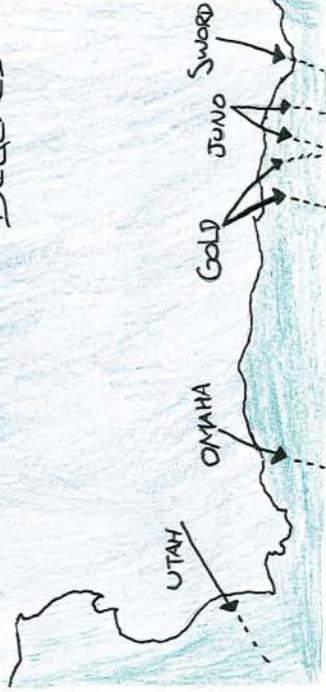
An image has been removed for copyright reasons.

THE SLIPWAYS

The two slipways are probably the most important historical landmarks in Torquay. Thousands of Allied soldiers used these slipways to embark on a very dangerous battle. The slipways were built by British soldiers. Roy Scott is one of two Royal Engineers still alive who built the slipways. They are grade 2 listed by English Heritage which protects the slipways from being knocked down.

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Map Of Normandy Beaches



D-DAY

D-Day is a historical event which took place on the 6th June 1944. Some people call it "The most important day". It was when Allies landed on Utah beach in Normandy in order to invade France. This took Hitler completely by surprise and the invasion was successful. It was the turning point for the 2nd world war.

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Torbay D-Day Trail

An image has been removed for copyright reasons.

The memorial where the bomb hit the church and killed many children

St Mary Church

Tarquay

An image has been removed for copyright reasons.

The slipways were American soldiers departed for D-Day

The Battery where all the guns were kept

Brixham

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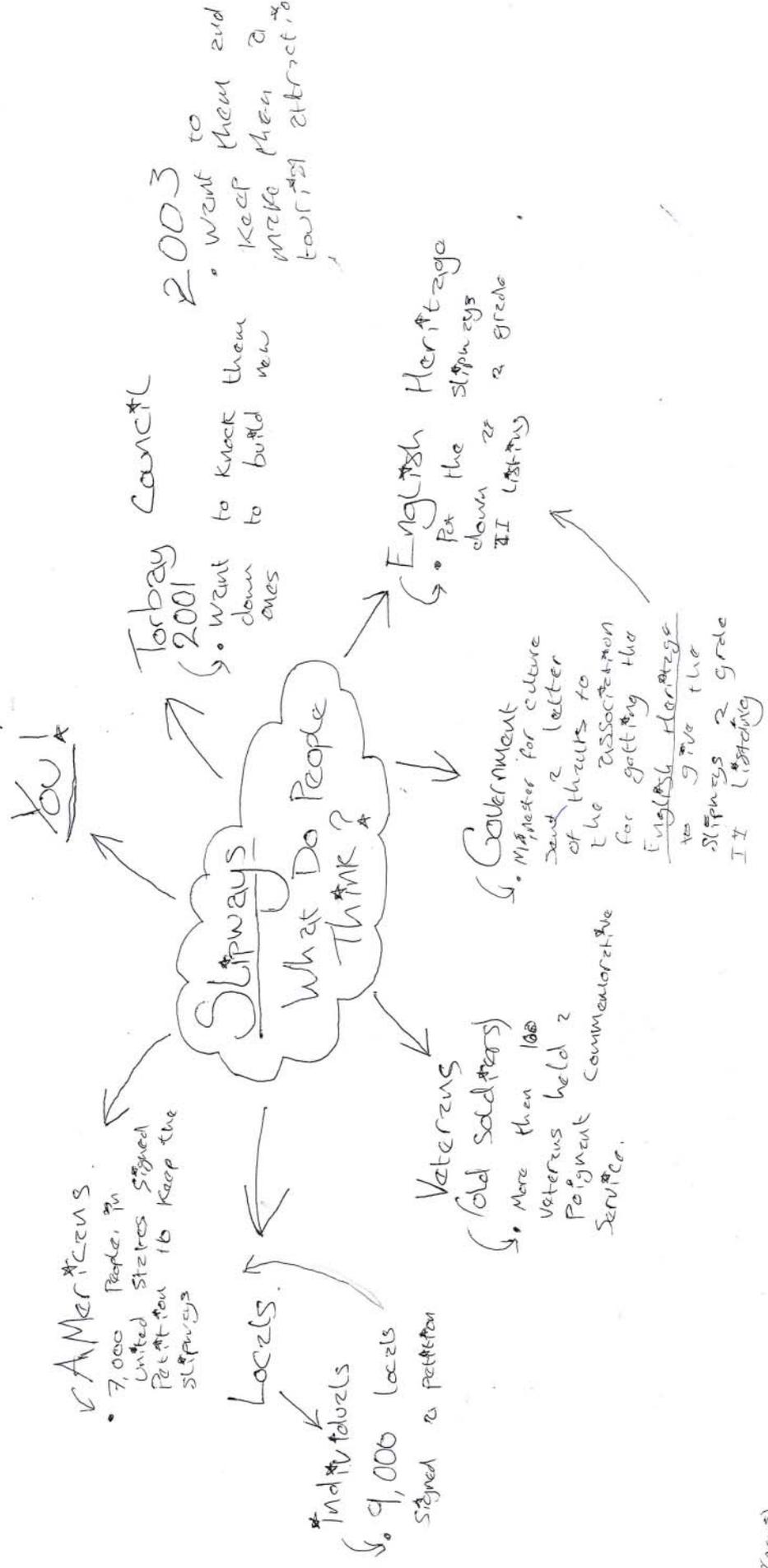
The River Dart was full of American soldiers

Dartmouth

The Most Important Day...

9/10/02

The slipways should stay because they are a historical feature.



Resources

1. BBC website (news) 6th June 2001
2. Herald Express November 2007
3. Torbay waterfront Built Environment Strategy. May 2003

UNIT B873 INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: SAMPLE 1

“The 2004 commemoration of D-day was the largest event of its kind for any Second World War event”. Does this statement prove D-day is as internationally significant now as it was then?

Commentary

The assignment is a good one in the sense that it allows the candidate to engage head on with the issue of significance, to probe a range of interpretations and to address motives, beliefs and attitudes at the time and later. This candidate has produced an impressive piece of work that looks at issues from a truly international perspective and harnesses a range of evidence into a coherent analytical account.

Use is made of a variety of evidence including academic historians, the media and even Normandy visitors to the school. The contradictory nature of interpretations is well understood as is the mythology associated with some viewpoints. There is clearly a good grasp of the wider context and changing attitudes and beliefs. Judgements are supported by well chosen evidence. It is relevant throughout. Criteria are used for measuring significance and some attempt is made to link judgements to some of those criteria. The whole business of D-day celebrations is placed in a wider time continuum and a wide range of dimensions is covered including the entertainment and commercial side of the events.

Overall, it is difficult to see how this could be improved given that the candidate has written this response efficiently within a recommended word total. Perhaps touching on the commemoration of other events linked to World War II would have been worthwhile to place D-day in the wider context of other commemorations which would have been appropriate given the exact wording of the question.

Mark: High Band 5:50

"The 2004 commemoration of D-day was the largest event of its kind for any Second World War event".
Does this statement prove D-day is an internationally significant now as it was then?

D-day was an event that was of international significance around the globe for one main reason. It affected everyone in some way- they either knew someone who had been injured or killed in the operation or it just simply that it changed the way of life for so many people. But the aim of this essay is to judge how significant it really was then and now. A historian called Christine Counsell came up with a way to judge the significance of D-day by using the "5 R's" a set of criteria which we can apply to judge the significance of an event by how remarkable, remembered, resonant, revealing it was and the changes it resulted in.

After the success of the D-day landings, Winston Churchill made a speech to the British public. This view is useful in judging the contemporary importance of D-day because Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of Britain at the time, and someone we can expect would give a reliable judgement although the statement was also motivated by raising public morale. Churchill's statement of "Much the greatest thing we have ever done" is accurate to an extent. Churchill also was probably excited and full of 'adrenalin' after the event and over exaggerated the statement he gave to the public. "The history of war has never witnessed such a grandiose operation. Napoleon himself never attempted it" was the judgement of Josef Stalin the Soviet leader. This supports the view of D-days significance with regard to its scale but also its place in history because it was the first successful invasion across the channel since 1066.

However, the British Media, like the politicians probably over-exaggerate the importance of the whole thing, because of the excitement at the time. The British Media always used words that suggested it was an allied operation, which it was which reflects its international significance. It is highly probable that this newsreel was scrutinised and influenced by government censorship before broadcasting, which again affects its reliability. Pathe News, on 7th June 1944, one day after the landings said "...history's greatest story is being written". In the Newsreel it said the word "Allies" four times, the words "Britain, USA and Canada" three times and said it was "the greatest event since 1066". Gaumont British News said on the same day "...greatest amphibious operation ever undertaken". Both of these contemporary British sources suggest how significant D-day was at the time. Again this could have been censored by the government and motivated more to raising the morale of Britain but they still show the impression of D-day the public at the time were given. From these contemporary views at the time we can clearly see how D-day was seen as significant at the time. This is supported by the views of modern historians who working objectively with the benefit of hindsight and not influenced by the emotions and censorship of the time give us a more objective judgement. There is consensus that D-day was the "greatest amphibious landing in history" and that it had far reaching consequences such as the liberation of Western Europe from the Nazis and leading to the defeat of Nazi Germany and the end of the war in Europe.

However, some historians don't believe D-day was the most significant event of the Second World War. Richard Overy, a British Historian at London University believes the largest contribution to the war was the Russian Army. According to Richard Overy, D-day was not one of the major contributions in WW2, as Air Power, US industrial production, Russia and the Battle of the Atlantic caused more problems for the Germans. Between 1942 and 1944 80% - 90% of the German soldiers were fighting against Russia. This tells us that there wasn't as much threat from Britain and America compared to the threat posed from Russia. However, Richard Overy does admit that if it wasn't for us and the Americans, the Russians wouldn't have defeated the German Army because before the Americans provided vast supplies to the Russians. So he does acknowledge that the contribution given by Britain and America during D-day was vital. Norman Davies, another British Historian has the same opinion, but he goes further in saying that Russia was by far the most influential army fighting Germany, and implies that even without us they probably would have succeeded. He said "The Soviet war effort was so overwhelming that impartial historians of the future are unlikely to rate British and American contribution to the European theatre as much more than a sound supporting role." It is hard to tell whether he is a reliable source because although he wrote a book of WW2 and has visited all the sites to source his book, most of his work was about the Russians. Another historian Richard Holmes generally agreed with Richard Overy by saying although 80%-90% of the German army was fighting Russia, we still made significant contribution

who fought in Burma were cast aside from the spotlight. He says "Nor should we forget that while D-day was the much publicized beginning of the end of the War in Europe, in Burma Bill Slim's 14th Army fought on far from the spotlight". The interesting thing we can gather from these three historians is that they all believe D-day itself was an internationally significant event but not the most important of WW2 but that this is probably the impression that was created by the 2004 anniversary commemorations which used D-Day as a way of uniting the allies with Russia and Germany

A historian called Niall Ferguson would probably disagree with even those views saying in a debate about D-Day in 2004 that, "the distortion and misrepresentation of history focuses on the activity of organised forces and events like D-Day which were a far less important part of the war than the war against civilians." About 58 million people died in World War two, 38 million of these were civilians, but because this isn't seen as big and heroic and is more controversial it is pushed to the side while countries select the more glorious and successful parts of the war to remember

The significance of D-day now if you consider that in 2004, so many nations came together to remember the 60th Anniversary of D-day on 6th June is that it is still part of remembered history. Thousands of veterans as well as politicians and royalty from different countries involved in the conflict attended the ceremony. Even the leaders of countries who played a minor part such as Mr Rudolf Schuster of Slovakia. The fact that he attended raised the profile of his newly formed country, formerly Czechoslovakia and allowed it to reflect in the glory and take some of the credit for what was still seen as a significant historical event.

Attitudes in 2004 about the significance of D-day seem a little contradictory. The French newspaper 'Le Parisien' published the results of a poll which said that the French public believed that the 6th June 1944 D-day landings were the greatest event of the century ahead of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the ending of Apartheid. 72% of those said that it meant the start of France's liberation from Nazi Germany. This suggests that the French are very proud people and prefer to forget that it was us, the Canadians and Americans that saved them from the Nazi's. Even in France, (where not many of their own troops got involved compared to those of the UK, USA of Canada) the belief that it was a great triumph is still there. However, on June 1st The Daily Mirror reported that it had conducted a survey amongst 1000 under 25-year-olds. Only 6% answered correctly seven basic questions about D-day, and 73% didn't know what it was, when it happened or who was involved. Also on June 1st, The Sunday Telegraph published the results of a survey which consisted of 1309 children aged between 10 and 14 from 24 different schools. When asked about D-day, only 28% knew that it was the beginning of the allied liberation of occupied Europe. More than 1 in 4 did not know that it was an event in WW2. This survey will be more accurate than that done by the Daily Mirror, because The Sunday Telegraph states that it was spread across 24 different schools to avoid bias, because if they chose only one school, that particular school may not have covered the topic.

Since 2004 how D-day is remembered seems to have changed in different countries. On June 6th 2007, the only evidence of anything to mark D-day in the UK was allowing free entry to children to the D-day museum in Portsmouth. This is compared to the US Secretary of State travelling to Normandy to unveil a brand new \$30 million visitor centre at the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. There were speeches in the senate which again linked the bravery of D-day with that of American soldiers in Iraq. Even in Canada, the Prime Minister Stephen Harper made a speech about D-day. Both of these countries are paying for their veterans to attend the 65th anniversary commemoration in 2009 as they believe it is significant because of the age of the veterans. The British government is not saying that the next significant anniversary is in 2044. How much of a contrast is this with the views and efforts made by Britain? In 2008 in a state visit to Britain the French President Nicholas Sarkozy said that France will "never forget the fine young people who came from all over the British Empire and laid down their lives on the Normandy beaches" showing its resonance as a symbol in relations between the two countries.

Americans at this point in time, are still remembering D-day as a significant event. The way it is remembered has if anything grown because of movies like Saving Private Ryan and Band of Brothers. D-day was the greatest set piece battle they were involved in World War II which Time magazine says "remains the model good war, and D-day, its greatest day ". The D-day museum in America which opened in 2000 has been transformed in a \$300 million expansion to become The National World War 2 museum

liberation of France, the opening of the concentration camps" because they reflect the values that America want to think while negative actions such as the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb, described at the time by President Truman as "the greatest thing in history" is now ignored. This reveals that D-day has become a symbol in American memory and its significance exaggerated.

The Normandy veterans who spoke to us explained how they saw D-day as a huge contribution to the War, and said that "you as citizens of this country should be proud of what your country sacrificed during the Second World War to make the contribution they made during D-day". It can be argued that the veterans know what they are talking about as they went through all the trauma and fear, but on the other hand they could just want us to feel proud of our country and not feel that all those lives were sacrificed for nothing. We also have to remember that they were only in one place at one time, and this means they may have a biased opinion to the success of D-day depending on where they fought. What it does show is that for those who took part in a significant event like D-day it remains with them for the rest of their lives. It seems that as many of their friends are dying remembering the sacrifices is even more relevant because they don't want us to forget. When these last veterans die D-Day will pass from what we call remembered 'popular' history into recorded 'history in the same way that as the last veterans from the First World War died in the 1990's there was one last surge of interest and coverage.

But can we blame ourselves for letting the significance of D-day drop over the last five years? Life goes on and after a while, it seems less relevant to have a ceremony that commemorates something that happened 200 years ago. D-day will be remembered if it is taught in schools, films and documentaries or indirectly through video games, which is the number one leisure and past time amongst teenagers a survey revealed last month. It is still commercially significant in Normandy itself in the sites and museums which form a heritage industry attracting tourists to the region. D-Day has extensive coverage in the media through films, television shows, songs, computer games and books and commercially is still seen as a significant historical event. In Britain it even featured in Eastenders, in a special remembrance day episode. This would have had a major influence on the popular view of history. Norman Davies a British historian says that 'The Longest Day' is the largest span that cinema can cope with meaning that other events from World War 2 are not as easy to portray which will affect how people view the past.. Most documentaries and Hollywood films, especially Saving Private Ryan and Band of Brothers, show D-Day from a biased American perspective often ignoring the contribution by the British and Canadian and other commonwealth soldiers.

D-day is remembered today in the way the term itself is used by the Media of all the allied countries that took part. American newspapers in 2008 talked of "D-day for McCain" and "D-day for Iraq". Remember Christine Counsell and her way of remembering the significance of an event via the "5 R's"? One of these R's was "Resonant" which means people often make comparisons with it. This is exactly what they are doing here; they are saying that it holds as much significance as D-day itself, they are using D-day as a symbol or metaphor to describe an event that is a significant turning point in history. The word D-day will continued to be used for many years now after the ceremonies have ceased, but the meaning of it will almost certainly become unknown, people will only understand that it describes its importance.

From the evidence that I have gathered, I conclude that the international significance has changed for the better, in the sense that now, every country, no matter how big or small a contribution they made, came together to remember D-day as a worldwide congregation in 2004. However, the significance, I believe is definitely dropping in Britain amongst the next generation of youngsters. The polls released by the British and French papers do support this opinion, although didn't influence it completely because they are subject to a rather large element of bias to them. Children aren't bothered that Video Games don't contain all the information about D-day, and therefore I predict that over the next five decades D-day will pass into 'recorded history' only to be remembered by historians and researchers, and through subtle headlines such as "D-day for Obama" as the direct link of veterans is lost. Children will have no reason to remember D-day. Their parents won't have been involved and their Grandparents won't have been involved either. Yes we still remember those in WWI who died for us on 11th November, but we don't hold huge events for it every few years and D-Day will become part of that general remembrance. This is the reason why I believe the significance of D-day reached its peak between 1994 and 2004, when it was remembered with the building of many museums and especially in the media.

UNIT B873 INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: SAMPLE 2

Devise a series of programmes focusing on the significance of the Vietnam War

Commentary

A valid and worthwhile theme on a popular international issue. The candidate is largely successful if a little crude and careless in the communication. Whilst there is a fairly strong emphasis on the USA, it does cover a broader international canvas than this in terms of impact, eg. Australia as well as internally within Vietnam and South East Asia.

The assignment shows reasonable skills of selection and deployment. The different “programmes” make sense and there is sound justification for including and excluding many of the themes. The range of material selected also demonstrates a good grasp of the issues and content associated with the Vietnam War. Although not made explicit the candidate does have some understanding of what makes something significant, even if no real distinction is made between significance and impact. Nevertheless, good attempts are made to discuss both short and longer-term impact. These aspects are discussed throughout the assignment. Nor is the candidate afraid to come to their own conclusions and make their own judgements – often supported by valid evidence. There is recognition of different interpretations but this is not given much prominence in this particular piece of work.

Although a strong piece of work, the focus on significance, especially the broader international significance, might have been a bit more detailed and there could have been a little bit more consideration of more interpretations.

Mark: High Band 4: 42

Significance of the Vietnam War

Tactics

Tactics in the Vietnam War were infamous, with the Americans battling against the fearsome tactics of guerrilla warfare. The Americans were forced to use inhuman tactics like Agent Orange, napalm and search and destroy killing many thousand of innocent Vietnamese women and children, which we see today in the many films especially platoon which shows the realistic view of what really went on that is why we remember the bombing and the devastating tactics used through the media.

These catastrophic tactics lead to significant long term effects such the after health implications of Agent Orange, like babies been born with severe disabilities and people developing cancer which eventually would lead to death. After the Vietnam War Agent Orange was banned by the United Nation because of what had happened in the Vietnam War.

Also the destruction of the operation rolling thunder made people homeless and that the crops filed would have been destroyed so there was a food shortage in the late 1970's and the early 1980's which then lead to problems in other countries like the Philippines and Australia because of the Vietnamese refugees took abroad to look for safety.

The Vietnam tactics were mostly short term significance hence the uses of tunnels no longer been used from the Vietnam war onwards, and strategic hamlet changing peoples life in the matter of days because of them moving areas from the north to the south.

In the series I would include about the banning of the Agent Orange and the tactics of operation rolling thunder because this had a big affect on the future of tactics because operation rolling thunder is used in Iraq and the Gaza conflict. I would also include Guerrilla warfare because after the Vietnam War countries had to develop a new way of fighting it because it is hard to defend against. However I wouldn't use the tactics of the tunnels because that hasn't been used after the Vietnam War so doesn't fit into the TV series because it doesn't include any short term significance.

Journalism

During the Vietnam War journalism was the main way in which the public found out the information of what the US soldier were doing to the innocent Vietnamese children and women which was devastating for the public to watch which was a cause of why so many people started protesting.

It is significant because the journalism is how we know a lot of the information and how our parents know a lot about it and because people could come up with the right opinion about the Vietnam War.

It had mostly long term significance this is because during the Vietnam War the interviews were uncensored and they could ask and air anything they wanted to

ands as we saw in a clip they were asking them questions whilst they are seconds away from going into action, this could put danger onto the forces, because the Vietcong would know where they are and also the danger of the of the journalist getting killed whilst on duty. And also the journalist where allowed to wonder were ever they wanted there was no health and safety banning them form going places because they could be endangering themselves.

In Australia the journalists portrayed the army differently to the way the US did to there's the Australians portrayed them as national heroes but the e US portrayed them as a disgrace to the country and then in America this shone through to the public who then when the Vietnam veterans would get abuse off of the American public when most of the soldiers didn't even want to go to war they were drafted in.

In the modern world internationally members of the army don't speak to the journalist instead the army employ a spokesperson who speak the world tabloid and answer question but withholding information which the commanding officer has asks them to. Also they are banned from certain areas of the country they are reporting on so there is less danger of the tabloid but still in Iraq they are still being used as hostages.

I think it is very important to use journalism in the series this is because it is mostly long term effects and the comparison between modern day journalism and journalism in Vietnam is staggering like when countries censor the interview and have spokesmen and most people remember the war due to journalist and it resulted in massive changes. However I won't include about the how the Americans treated the soldiers when they returned home because this is irrelevant to the journalism section and isn't long term because now they are accepted in society.

Protest Movement

During the Vietnam, because of the devastating thing the US army did, protest became widely viewable not just throughout USA but throughout the world, however some weren't do to with the Vietnam war but the politics in they're own country.

People started to protested against he war in Vietnam because of the vile tactics that were used to against Vietnamese civilians like agent orange and napalm. Also the policy of why they went to war with Vietnam was a bit weak and people were thinking that the real reason was been covered up by the government. Another reason is that one of the most trusted men in America at that time Walter Cronkite said that the war was never going to end and that it was going to be a stalemate.

During the war the number of people who disagreed with the war was staggeringly going up each year from 1965-1969 the percentages of US civilians went up 30% from 28% to 58% this had as many reason. The percentage of people who disagree with the war went up so drastically because the journalist changed side form supporting the cause of the war to disagreeing and the media has a lot of power over people's opinion. Also innocents in Vietnam like the My Lai massacre where the commanding officer killed, tortured and raped innocent civilians not caring about it, and the government kept this out of the public eye for 1 year but when the public found out about this, this sparked controversy not just because of the of the war crimes but because of the government withholding information. After this many Americans didn't trust the government.

Protest were happening in thousand, especially in Washington were a staggering half a million people turned up to protest, the protest were mostly peaceful and non-violent protest with people chanting and artist singing about the Vietnam war most famously Country Joe and the Fish. However on May the 4 1970 one protest took a nasty turn, at Kent State University 4 students who were protesting were shot by the home office, who are meant to protect the public this sparked more opposition for the government.

In the series I think you should include about the government withholding information about My Lai because that is one the reasons why America today don't trust the government and also the My Lai massacre is well remembered event today. I also think you should talk about the mass amount of people who protested about the war because you can show a comparison of protest of Iraq and Gaza and say how remarkable it was this is because there were grater numbers of people who protested against the Vietnam war than Iraq and Gaza this shows it was more remarkable.

Vietnam Veterans

The Vietnam veterans had very much a short term significance this is because during and after the war for a while the US public gave the veterans a lot of abuse which included spitting, assaulting and name calling, this wasn't help by the media input, even though most have them have been pulled in by the draft.

One of very little long term significance was that after the war the soldiers struggle with physical and mental problems, the physical problems were lost limbs and disabilities. The mental problems were post traumatic stress disorder which is very serious, and very hard to get rid off.

Now Vietnam veterans are now not portrayed as evil and inhuman and the American public have come to terms with that is wasn't there fault because they had to go because of the draft, this is why it's only short term significance because the abuse only lasted for about 20 years after the war.

So in the series I would include about the mental and physical diseases that the veterans received after and during the war because that the only long term significant that has happened to the Vietnam veterans however I would mention a bit about he loss of limbs and post traumatic stress but only for a short slot . I wouldn't make a whole episode about it. I wouldn't mention about the drug misuse because although some people had long term difficulties it was mostly during and a couple of years after the war and it isn't remembered or remarkable because still in modern was soldiers still take drugs.

Vietnam and Boat people

The Vietnam refugees had a horrific time during the Vietnam war which was mostly long term this included people taking drugs and continuing after the war and misusing them and then sadly some off the dying. Another reason is that because of the destroyed homeland they had no where to live so they would emigrate to Australia the Philippines and America where no 25% of homeless people are Vietnam victims. All so for the children many had lost both of their parents so they had to be orphaned around 800,000. And they had mental problems of post traumatic stress and also they

are said to be twice as likely to commit suicide than any other person in Vietnam who wasn't born before the war.

However they were quite a few short term significance like for the next generation because of the chemical in Agent Orange so they babies would get infected and be born disabled and also the crops would be damage so they would be a shortage in the 1980's so difficult to find food and survive.

In the series I would include all the long term significant because it show what America were really like and to sure it just didn't stop when the Americans went I would also add about that the Vietnamese would now never support capitalist ways because of how a capitalist country had treat them so the purpose of why the Americans had set out to Vietnam has now been destroyed by themselves.

Foreign Policy

After the Vietnam War America went through a phrase where they declined to help countries and get involved in war this period was called the Vietnam Syndrome. This all started off because of the humiliation of losing the Vietnam War which was the first, major war they had lost.

The Vietnam Syndrome influenced decisions about how to deal with other countries like Afghanistan in 1979 were the American didn't get involved in the conflict because of the syndrome.

America has said to have lost the syndrome when they won the first gulf war according to President Bush Senior where he said "the spectre of Vietnam has been buried forever in the desert sands of the Arabian Peninsula" however this source is biased because he would want the syndrome to finish because then the American public would be happier going to war and the armed forces confident of winning the war. America's foreign policy is long term this is because people still talk about it and argues about whether America has really got over the Vietnam syndrome, this shows us that the foreign policy of Vietnam is still very much remembered. People are also making comparison from the Vietnam War to the Iraq war; this is because the Iraq war has been going on for so long without anyone making any progress which is what Walter Cronkite said about the Vietnam War. Now with the new president of the United States promising to take out soldier from Iraq this is going to be like the Vietnam War because the they would have completed what they would of fought for and lost and then they mighty become an Iraq syndrome. The foreign policy has resulted in change because people's view on what America is has changed this is because before the war they would see themselves as the world police and people agreed with that but after they changed their mind because they lost to a poor and little country.

In the series I would include a lot about the foreign policy because it shaped America's future, and influenced a lot of decisions that America made. But I wouldn't include about peoples perception of America because this was more short term, I still would highlight during the foreign policy series.

For the series I would include about eh journalism and about the censorship that journalists now have. And also include about the protest movements these two are the most important long term significance during the Vietnam War. So I would make a whole episode on this however I would also include a lot of the Vietnam Tactics and talk a lot of the effects of Agent Orange.

I wouldn't include a lot about the Vietnamese refugees and boar people because these were mostly short term significance along with the Vietnam Veterans so I would hint about them and include them along side some other topics.

The message you shout try and get across is that the Vietnam war was a war that will always be remembered and remarkable and that we will always see the effect in long term of the war

UNIT B873 INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: SAMPLE 3

- a) *What is the significance of the development and abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade?*
- b) *Should Britain apologise for its role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade?*

Commentary

The assignment consists of two questions but the second in particular provides plenty of scope for candidates' viewpoints. This assignment demonstrates a good understanding by the candidate of the issues with a broad and varied range of content. Whilst largely accurate there are a few generalisations that would have benefited from some qualification. Although a little mechanistic in places, the candidate identifies criteria for measuring "significance" and then selects material to support some of these criteria. The selection is reasonably judicious and well substantiated. There is a sizeable focus on the British dimension but the wider implications are considered, including the effects on the African nations themselves. Both short and longer-term effects are addressed as well as a good range of types of impact.

The overall assignment is rather long and at times a bit slipshod. The grammar could also have been improved. It could have been a bit more punchy. At times there is almost too much evidence so that it appears more like a laundry list of effects. The second part of this assignment has many strengths. A balanced range of viewpoints are provided with each well substantiated. The candidate ends with personal opinions which are fairly well expressed and follow logically from the evidence.

Although a strong assignment, it could have been improved slightly with a sharper focus in places and the drawing of substantiating evidence from a wider range of places such as comparisons between Britain and elsewhere in Europe.

Mark: Low Band 5: 45

What Is the Significance of the Development and Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade?
(1000 Words)

Introduction.

There are many different criteria for the measurement of a historical event's significance, from many different sources.

One example of a set of such criteria could be Geoffrey Partington's criteria for historical significance. These criteria are:

- Importance – to people in the past.
- Profundity – how deeply people's lives were affected.
- Quantity – how many lives have been affected.
- Durability – for how long have people's lives been affected.
- Relevance – in terms of the increased understanding of present life.

Other examples could be Christine Counsell's "Five Rs", which are as follows:

- Remarkd upon
- Remembered
- Resulting in change
- Revealing
- Resonant

A man named Rob Philips also created his own criteria, although they were, admittedly, designed mainly for World War One. However, they could still be used for measuring the significance of other historical events. These criteria were:

- Groundbreaking
- Remembered
- Effects that are far reaching
- Affecting the future
- Terrifying

I have used some of these various criteria, from the many sources shown, to create my own set of criteria for measuring the historical significance of a historical event. My own criteria are:

1. The number of people the event affected.
2. How greatly they were affected.
3. How long they were affected for.
4. How greatly the event is remembered today.
5. How greatly the event has affected society today.

I am going to apply each of these five criteria to the Transatlantic Slave Trade, in order to ascertain the significance of this now-famous historical event.

The Number of People the Transatlantic Slave Trade Affected, and How Greatly They Were Affected.

The Transatlantic slave trade affected many, many people. It is estimated that, throughout the course of the Transatlantic slave trade, 12 million Black Africans were taken to be slaves in the West Indies, and Americas. They would then experience a terrible ordeal, an ordeal which some of them would not survive. Very few of the slaves would see their home again.

The slaves were affected greatly by the Transatlantic slave trade. The slave trade involved a triangular trade, operating in three steps. In the second step, known as the "middle passage", the traders transported their slaves, which they had traded goods like knives and blankets for, in Africa, across the seas, to the "West Indies" and Americas, to be sold in auctions, and taken to work on plantations.

During the "middle passage", the slaves were "packed" into the hold of the ships, and chained up like animals, the manacles rubbing them raw. In such cramped, unsanitary conditions, disease and illness were common, and severe. In general, between 10-20% of the slaves died from illness, starvation, or another cases of negligence. However, the crew members were just as at risk from poor conditions. Normally, just as many crew members as slaves died on the "middle passage" of the triangular trade.

Despite the fact that the actual slaves themselves were affected by the slave trade, they were not the only ones actually affected by the events in the slave trade. The crews of the ships carrying the slaves would be affected negatively – as I already mentioned, they very often perished on the "middle passage". However, they would benefit from the voyage, as they would receive payment for the slaves. The captains, too, would benefit in monetary terms from the slave auctions.

The plantation owners, too, would have benefited from the slave trade. Although they had to pay great deals of money for their slaves, they benefited greatly from the free labour they provided. As well as this, the plantation owners did not have to spend time and money on keeping their slaves in good conditions, and treating them well- as no-one cared about the slaves. Therefore, the only reason for the plantation owners treating their slaves well was out of the goodness of their hearts, or to keep the slaves alive, so that they could work. The plantation owners also became very rich from the slave trade, as they produced raw goods, such as sugar and rum, which the Europeans desired greatly, and which they could sell to the Europeans for great deals of money.

And, of course, the owners of the European ports, such as Bristol, would benefit greatly from the slaves of the slaves and the goods from the Americas and West Indies, as they owned the ports where the ships left and arrived again, at the beginning and end of the "triangular trade".

Also, the Africans themselves benefited from the slave trade. The reason for this is that it was African tribal leaders, who declared war on rival tribes, attacked them, and gathered slaves from them. They then traded these slaves with the Europeans, for

items such as guns. The Africans benefited, as they gained guns, with which to protect themselves from their rival tribes, and they also gained other items which they could use in everyday life.

How Long These People were affected by the Slave Trade.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade lasted for almost ~~years~~. Compared to most other forms of slavery at the time, this was a fairly short period of time. But in my opinion, this still makes the slave trade a historically significant event, because ~~years~~ is a very long time, and so, for all these years, the slaves would be suffering, and the plantation owners would be benefiting. So, people involved in the slave trade would be being affected, and for a very long time.

How Greatly the Slave Trade is remembered today.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade is a greatly remembered event. For example, there is a Wilberforce museum in ~~NY~~ dedicated to William Wilberforce, one of the people responsible for the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain. His task was to lead the debate and abolition in parliament. As well as this, last year, 2007, was celebrated as the bicentennial of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain.

During this year, a feature film was released, *Amazing Grace*. This film was based on the people who orchestrated the abolition of the slave trade, and it followed the series of events that led to the abolition itself. However, the film was criticised for making William Wilberforce seem like the main person involved in the abolition, when, in reality, he was just one of many people involved, and his part was not *extremely* major, although it was, of course, still important. As well as this, the film was also criticised for making Wilberforce a dashing hero, when in fact, he actually held views that would be classed as racist today.

In addition to this, a commemorative coin was issued, bearing the symbol of a chain, and a message, stating that 2007 was the bicentennial of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain.

A second film was also made, based on the slave trade. Entitled *The Amazing Grace*, this film followed the story of John Newton, a famous captain of a slave ship, as he and his crew travelled to Africa, to capture slaves there.

So, the slave trade is certainly historically significant in terms of how well it is remembered.

How Greatly the Events of the Slave Trade Have Affected Society Today.

The events of the slave trade have certainly affected today's society. Because slaves were enslaved in American, British or European plantations, when the slave trade was abolished in the countries that had enslaved them, some of them were freed (although for some of them, their slavery continued, because, although the slave trade had been

abolished, slavery itself had not). Therefore, these freed slaves lived on the colonies of the nations that had enslaved them, or, they were taken to the actual nations themselves, where they lived. It is because of this, that today, there are many black people living in America, Great Britain, and Europe.

This has led to many different cultures in nations which originally did not have any black inhabitants. This has, on some level, led to white people gaining a better understanding of the African culture, along with their beliefs, customs, and way of life. This, in turn, has led to a greater level of understanding and acceptance of foreign people, and people of different races and ethnic background, on the part of the original inhabitants of these nations.

Unfortunately, there is another, far more negative thing that the slave trade has brought to modern society – racism. The slave trade was totally racist; the black people suffered and were wrongly enslaved, whilst the white people benefited greatly. During the slave trade, black people were seen as sub-human, as animals, and were treated in a similar way. Therefore, people all over the countries involved in the slave trade, such as the West Indies and the Americas, believed that this was the right way to treat black people; as inferior beings. This led to massive racism and prejudice. And, unfortunately, when the slave trade was abolished, and some slaves were set free in European and American colonies, these ex-slaves were still treated by some as non-human, and inferior beings.

This racism has, unfortunately, continued throughout the years, to modern day society. And this brings a disadvantage of a multi-ethnic society, as opposed to the advantages. With such a vast multitude of people of different races and ethnic backgrounds living in different countries, the original inhabitants of the countries today feel that they are superior to the black ex-slaves. This has led to great racism, in many areas, such as, for instance, the West End in London.

The Transatlantic slave trade is historically significant in terms of how it has affected society today. I do not think that all of its affects on society are positive, but I still think that the effects it had on society were major.

Conclusion.

To conclude, I hope that, in this piece of coursework, I have explained how historically significant the Transatlantic slave trade was, in many different categories of historical significance. In my opinion, the slave trade was extremely significant, because there is plenty of evidence to support its significance in all of the criteria that I chose. In this piece of coursework, I hope that I have presented this evidence, and explained how this means that the slave trade fits into each of my criteria for historical significance.

Should Britain Apologize for its Role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade?
(500 Words)

Introduction.

There has been much controversy recently as to whether Great Britain should apologize for its role in the Transatlantic slave trade, as should the other countries involved.

It is no surprise that Africa is demanding forgiveness for the slave trade. Even though it was abolished in all the countries involved many, many years ago (for instance, it was abolished in Great Britain in 1807), its effects are still well-remembered, and almost everyone today regards the slave trade as having been an immoral, evil act.

Many arguments have been put forward, both for and against an apology from Britain, and other nations, to apologize for their roles in the slave trade.

Reasons For an Apology From Great Britain.

One reason for an apology could be that, quite simply, the slave trade was a terrible event. It brought pain and suffering to an estimated 12 million innocent Africans, and, as such, was an immoral act against humanity. Therefore, Great Britain should pay for its role in such a diabolical event, and so, should apologize profusely.

The Transatlantic slave trade operated in three steps. It is for this reason that it was known as the triangular trade. The second section, known as the "middle passage", involved transporting the slaves from their homeland, Africa, to the plantations in the West Indies and Americas. And it is generally this section of the triangular trade that is regarded as the most terrible and cruel.

This cruelty could be used by those using the above argument, to prove their point. The information below demonstrates just how cruel the "middle passage" was.

During the "middle passage", the slaves, in their hundreds, would be "packed" in as tightly as possible; none of the slave traders considered their well-being or comfort. The slaves would then be chained up, lying down, or sitting, their manacles rubbing them raw. They would be kept in terrible conditions, almost starved, with no proper hygienic facilities, such as toilets. In such unsanitary conditions, disease was common, frequent, and, in many cases, quite severe. Very often, on most voyages, roughly 15% of the slaves onboard the vessel died on the "middle passage". However, normally, the same amount of crew members also died on the "middle passage".

Some slaves actually tried to kill themselves, rather than face further suffering. Others tried to rise up against their captors in revolts, but these revolts were put down brutally

and violently. And, to make matters worse, because the various African tribes all spoke different languages, and because the enslaved Africans on the ships all came from a vast multitude of tribes, communication was almost impossible, due to the language difficulties. Therefore, it would be enough of a challenge just to organise a rebellion, let alone actually succeed in one.

Another argument for an apology could be that the slave trade did not just bring misery and suffering to the slaves - it also ensured that the slavers and plantation owners made a huge amount of money, and received valuable goods, such as sugar and rum, among other things.

They would have to work endlessly for hours on end, in sweltering heat, producing a certain type of crop. The work was back-breaking, but there were no rests. The slaves were fed simple food, just twice a day, except in the harvest season, when they received three meals - and that was just because they had to work longer hours. had almost no possessions, and only had their clothes replaced two or possibly three times a year, at the most. The slaves' accommodations were just as bad - simple huts, with nothing but piles of straw for beds, and no floor, so the slaves were sitting on the exposed, dirty earth; wooden floors were an un-known luxury.

Even worse, some of the jobs on the plantations were extremely dangerous. Slaves could be terribly burnt, for instance, whilst stirring boiling liquid sugar. But they were not given any safety equipment, and no appropriate safety measures were taken. The plantation owners could have used paid workers for the more dangerous jobs, because, even if they got injured, they could get paid, which might help contribute towards their medical needs. But instead, they used slaves, because no-one cared about the loss or injury of a slaves. The owner reason plantation owners and the traders looked after the slaves was because they cost money to buy, and to replace.

In addition to this, upon any show of rebellion, any revolts, or any attempts to escape from the slaves, they would be severely punished. Slaves could be whipped, with one of many whips or ropes, could have limbs amputated, or even be executed - hung in front of a huge crowd.

These slaves were taken from their homes, against their will. They would never see their home country again; some of them would die. The others would live out most or all of their lives suffering, and enslaved. These innocent people experienced an unimaginable amount of pain, emotional, mental and physical. And, quite simply, the only reason why these people were kidnapped, against their will, the reason why their kidnappers presumed they had the right to just take people from another country, another continent, was so that the slave traders could gain money. So that the plantation owners could get a workforce that did not to be paid, treated even faintly well, or have any rights. And so that the European citizens could receive rum, tobacco and sugar. These Africans suffered to bring others wealth. And very few Europeans actually cared.

Reasons Against an Apology From Great Britain.

However, there are some arguments against an apology from Great Britain as well.

One such argument could be that it was not just the Europeans who enslaved Africans. The Africans themselves actually enslaved members of other, rival tribes, and then sold them on to the Europeans.

In Africa, slavery had been going on for many years before the Europeans arrived. One tribe would wage war against another tribe, and attack, capturing many slaves in the process. However, although the Africans wished to keep the female slaves, as they could be used to till the fields, and grow crops, and perform other such tasks, they had no use for the male slaves. Therefore, these slaves were just killed. However, when the Europeans arrived, they were more interested in the male slaves, as they were more strongly built, and strong, than women. They also fetched a higher price than children and females at auctions. So, now the Africans had a good way to rid themselves of the males - through trading with the white man. So they traded their male slaves to the Europeans, who in exchange, gave them guns, among other things. The Africans needed these guns for a reason - so that they themselves could use them to defend themselves against attacks from rival tribes, and prevent themselves from becoming slaves. But, of course, other tribes would know that their rivals had armed themselves, and, so, for their own safety, *they* would exchange their own slaves for guns, which they would use for protection. But then, the original tribe would try to trade *more* slaves for *more* guns, so that they would have more firepower than their rivals. And so it went on; a vicious circle.

So, although the Europeans did help contribute towards slavery in Africa, as the tribal leaders needed guns for defence and attack, and the Europeans traded with them for the guns, it could be argued that Africans themselves did just as much to contribute towards the slave trade as the Europeans, as they were the ones who actually kidnapped the slaves, and they still would not have stopped if the Europeans had never arrived. And, as well as this, it was the Africans who decided the quantity of slaves to trade with the Europeans, the gender, age and ability of the slaves they were going to trade, and what goods to trade them for. Therefore, it could be said that, in fact, it was the Africans who controlled the trade.

So, if Africa is demanding an apology and reparations from Great Britain, then it must surely also demand an apology from some of its own people.

Another argument against an apology could be that Africa was hardly a good continent to live on before the slave trade.

Africa was extremely under-developed economically than many other nations, especially ones such as the Americas, and European countries, and so, the nation was very poor. The Africans lived an extremely simple life - the African culture at the time of the slave trade

was as advanced as the European countries' had been in medieval times. As well as this, Africa was full of tribal conflict and wars. African rulers commanded armies of royal slaves to attack, kill and enslave the members of other tribes. These slaves would be used for sex, forced to work for the tribes that had enslaved them, and, if they were male, probably killed in cold blood. And, as well as this, although the majority of the African tribes were civilised, there were some tribes who held human sacrifices, and were even cannibalistic. Some slaves would have believed themselves safer in the service of the Europeans; although many slaves died, the traders and plantation owners did not intentionally kill their slaves, and tried to keep them relatively healthy. They would have accommodation, too, in the plantations, although, admittedly, they were far from luxurious. One slave actually said that she was glad to become a slave; it meant that she could not be eaten by a local cannibal tribe.

So, even though the slave trade was brutal, it could be argued that it was no more brutal than African slavery, and the African civilisation itself at the time. It could also be claimed that the African slaves were safer and better-off after being enslaved - as they could not be killed or harmed by the Africans.

My Opinion.

In my opinion, I do not think that Great Britain should have to apologise for its role in the Transatlantic slave trade. I think this, because in my opinion, Britain should not have to apologise for an event which ended two-hundred years ago - quite simply because the people who are alive and living in Great Britain today had absolutely no involvement in the Transatlantic slave trade, and did not in any way influence its effects, or the trade itself, because they were not alive either during the slave trade, or when it was abolished. Therefore, they can not have been able to do anything even related to the slave trade, except, perhaps, raise awareness in recent years, informing people of what the slave trade was like. My basic point is that, since modern-day Britain, and its citizens, can not have had any involvement with the slave trade, they can not be held to blame for it. They should feel sorry for those who suffered in the slave trade, and they should, really, regret the events of the slave trade, but they should not have to apologise, and pay reparations, for it.

As well as this, not all of the British public had a part in, or even supported, the slave trade. Some the British public, during the time of the slave trade, did, in fact, campaign against it, such as the members of the Society For the Abolition of the Slave Trade; such as William Wilberforce, for instance. As well as this, some of the general public boycotted slave-grown sugar, to show their protestation, and instead began to purchase more expensive sugar, which had not been grown by slaves. Josiah Wedgwood designed the famous seal, with the image of a black slave in chains, with the motto "Am I not a man and a brother?". This image was then embossed on many products, to be purchased by those who wished to prove or show their opposition to the slave trade. So, not everyone in Britain at the time of the slave trade actually agreed with it, or aided it.

So, it is for these reasons that I believe Britain should not have to apologise for its role in the slave trade. Yes, I do regret that the slave trade ever occurred, and I do understand the pain, misery and suffering that the African slaves must have gone through, but I simply do not believe that the modern British public and Government should be frowned upon, punished, and made to apologise, for something that they themselves were not involved in in any way.

UNIT B873 INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: SAMPLE 4

a) *What is the significance of the development and abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade?*

b) *Should Britain apologise for its role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade?*

Commentary

This is the same assignment as Sample 5 but is less successful overall although a number of very good points are made and there is a sound general grasp of many of the issues. An attempt is made to identify some criteria and to group some information around these criteria. The issue of causation is addressed seriously and the broader African and European context receives some consideration. At times, though, the response is too descriptive and points do not flow well together into a smooth, coherent discussion. There are a sizeable number of non-sequiturs. It also lacks substantiating evidence. It leaves a fair amount of assertion and vagueness when specific examples would have helped clarify the points being made. It also lacks the breadth of Sample 5, eg. omitting much that is related to cultural significance. Nevertheless, some valid points are made in the conclusion to the first part.

The second part of the assignment is rather brief but it demonstrates enough evidence of an understanding of both sides and the dilemma caused by the “apology” argument. It also shows a grasp of the causal link between slavery and some current issues. Credit also needs to be given for some valid analogies even if these would benefit from further development and explanation.

Mark: Low Band 4: 35

What is the significance of the development and Abolition of the slave trade?

This piece of work is designed to assess the significance of the transatlantic slave trade. There are many different criteria used to do this. This essay uses Partington's five criteria for historical significance. These are importance, profundity, quantity, durability and relevance.

The transatlantic slave trade was not the beginning of slavery, nor was it the end. However it is one of the most remembered acts of slavery recognised separately from the rest for many reasons. One such reason is that it took slavery one step further than it had ever been. It is also one of the most recent major and publicised acts of slave trading and resulted in laws against slavery. It began because of the Europeans' want for sugar, tobacco and cotton from the Americas. Working in the plantations was hard strenuous work and the owners needed a cheap and sizeable workforce to meet their customers' demands. This is where the slaves came in. The European traders could buy slaves very cheaply in Africa and could exchange them with the plantation owners as part payment for their crops. They could then sell these crops for a huge profit in Europe.

The abolition of the slave trade took a long time. Some people devoted their lives to it. Some of the main figures of the abolition were John Newton, William Wilberforce, Granville Sharp, Thomas Clarkson and Ouladah Equiano. In 1765 Granville Sharp began legal challenges with the case of Jonathan Strong, whose master David Listle had assaulted him. In 1783 British Quakers formed a committee against slavery and the slave trade. In 1786 Thomas Clarkson's essay on slavery and commerce of the human specie was published. In 1787 the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade was started. Their mission was to inform the public of the immoral acts committed in the name of slavery; bring about a new law to abolish the slave trade and enforce it on the high seas; and to establish areas in West Africa where Africans could live free of the threat of capture and sale. In 1789 the Interesting Narrative of Ouladah Equiano or Gustavas Vassa the African was published. In 1790 William Wilberforce's first abolition bill was published. All of this leads to the Act to abolish the Atlantic slave trade, which was passed in Parliament in 1807, and then the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833.

Partington's first criterion asks how important the event was to the people in the past. Slave trading wasn't new. African tribes were always fighting and to save killing the captives from the wars they would sell them to the slave traders. The European slave traders simply tapped into this market making them, and the African slave traders very rich. Slavery also became a big part of American society. In 1502 the first enslaved Africans were reported in the Americas. The slave trade grew from there so that eventually it became so common and popular that ordinary people were buying slaves to do work around their houses. Without the slave trade, thousands of people, not only

plantation owners and slave traders but people like blacksmiths who made the chains and shackles, would not have had jobs!

Quantity refers to the number of people affected. This includes all of the slaves and slaves' children. It also includes the plantation owners who could expand their business and become very rich as a result; the European merchants who made vast profits and the African slave traders who also flourished. Even people who thought they had nothing to do with it, but who used goods produced on plantations would not have been able to do so without the slave trade.

Profundity considers how deeply people's lives have been affected. The slave trade ruined and tortured many people's lives to the extent that some of them would rather have been dead. Some slaves even broke free from the crew on the ships and jumped overboard to commit suicide rather than suffer any more! Slavery was a life sentence for most slaves, the majority who survived the journey died as slaves and most of their children never escaped it either. Slavery also had a profound affect on some of the indigenous tribes in the Americas particularly in the West Indies where they were driven out and have now been almost completely replaced by people of African descent.

The main effect that the abolition of slavery had on Africa was poverty. It was a big industry at the time, and it went on for so long that Africa came to be reliant upon the money it brought in. When the abolition was enforced it disrupted the financial cycle and prevented the onset of their industrial revolution. It also took money from the European traders and caused American plantation owners to lose their cheap source of labour.

In terms of durability the transatlantic slave trade lasted over three hundred years. This affected generations of slaves and did not just include those captured and taken from Africa but generations of their children thereafter.

The slave trade has been highly relevant in terms of increased understanding of present life. Britain and America are now highly multi ethnic and multi cultural societies. The slave trade played a big part in creating this. The abolition of the slave trade resulted in a lot of racial discrimination which is only now coming to an end. However the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States of America shows that we are moving in the right direction.

In conclusion the development and abolition of the slave trade are highly significant in history and today. It affected the world for the hundreds of years that it was happening but it has also changed the world we live in now. Over time African and European cultural traditions have merged to create new and unique parts of society. African music, religion, food, language and even dance have been gradually woven through the world; not on purpose but brilliantly none the less. Though the different races were thought to be worlds apart, the contrasting ways that they chose to live their lives have ended up hand in hand making the world what it is today.

Should Britain Apologise for the Atlantic Slave Trade?

The slave trade has been described as a crime against humanity and a barbaric catastrophe. It is agreed that it was terrible and should never have happened. Many people think that Britain should give a full apology and reparations for its role in the slave trade. However not everybody agrees with this!

There is thought to have been more than 12 million black Africans captured and enslaved from the 16th century to the 19th century. A lot of these didn't even make it through the journey on the ships. The middle passage was shocking. The slaves were thought of as no more than animals, they were packed into the ships as tight as possible, sometimes laying on shelves or curled up in corners. Chained there for days at a time they would sit in their own excretion, covered in vomit and not separated from any that died next to them.

When looking further into the reasons for an apology we come across the opinion that the slave trade has had a lasting effect on Africa. Some people think that it left Africa impoverished and that it has never fully recovered. The traders took a lot of young, fit, and healthy Africans, leaving the children, the old and the ill. This had a big impact on Africa and prevented an industrial revolution. Some think that Britain should apologise for the simple reason that it would be considerate to those who were affected and it would help give them peace of mind so that they wouldn't dwell on the horrors afflicted on their ancestors. To make people know that we understand that what British people did was wrong and that an event like that would never happen again.

Moreover, many people support the opinion that there is no need at all for Britain to apologise for the slave trade. They think that you cannot, and should not try to punish British people for something that happened hundreds of years ago that they had no control over. At the time slavery was acceptable, even normal, Britain wasn't alone the whole world was involved in slavery at the time. Britain took the first steps to abolish the slave trade; it was abolitionists in Britain who took the lead and everyone else that followed so why should it be Britain giving an apology. If Britain is to apologise for the slave trade when none of the people who were involved in the trade are still alive, then shouldn't Britain's get an apology from everyone who invaded them or started a war with them no matter when it happened.

In conclusion there are arguments for and against an apology however there are far more views that disagree with the apology. To this point there hasn't been a full apology despite the requests made, so it is unlikely that there will be an apology in the future.

UNIT B877 WHOSE HISTORY? PRESENTING THE PAST: SAMPLE 1

- (a) *In what different ways has King John been represented and interpreted?*
(b) *Why has King John been represented and interpreted in different ways?*

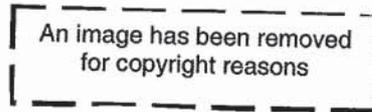
Commentary

The specification makes clear that this unit should be approached through two key questions. This assignment does this in a very straightforward way, supplying four different representations of King John, in four different forms. In the first part of the response, this candidate uses good contextual knowledge of John's reign and character to comment on the four sources. The analyses may lack depth (and the candidate obviously misunderstands Source 1), but they do all move on from the specifics in the source to make reasonable general points. The first paragraph of Section (b) shows that the candidate clearly understands that John's reputation changed over time, and that this depended on the standpoints of the authors of the interpretations. However, much of this part of the answer veers away from analysing the representations as interpretations into evaluating them as sources. This leads to a focus on issues of reliability, when a much more appropriate focus would have examined the purpose of each interpretation. The cartoon, for example, Source Four, is approached as if looking for reliable evidence of John's reign. Because it is a cartoon, the candidate does not take it seriously as an interpretation of how John was viewed by the mid-20th century. The assignment would work well if the distinction between source and interpretation, (or representation) were made clear from the start and that this unit is about the latter.

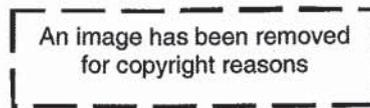
Mark: High Band 4: 42

Coursework: Who's history? Question 1

There are many different interpretations of King John. He has been interpreted as bad by those like monks and Victorians. On the other hand, John has been interpreted as a good king by people during the Tudor period and those from the 1950's and 1960's.



The Walt Disney film "Robin Hood" interprets John as bad. John is shown as greedy by his continual concern with money and taxes. During John's reign there was high inflation and the government had to take on more work than ever before leaving the government short of money which increased baronial discontent which made matters worse. This led to the civil war and the



signing of the Magna Carta. As shown in this picture. (This painting was made June 19th 1215 by J. Mortimer.) He is shown as vain because he's always looking into a mirror. John is portrayed wearing a crown that is too big and doesn't fit his head therefore showing that he should not have been king and that being king is a big responsibility. After his brother, Richard "the lion heart" died, John had big shoes to fill. John is shown as immature because whenever he hears of his mother or is upset, he begins to suck his thumb.

My second source describes John as a good judge and intelligent. It claims John had "a lively mind and keen intelligence". This probably refers to the fact that John moved up and down the country making sure that everything was well governed. He sat as judge and often heard very important cases. He had a good sense of judgement. For example, he pardoned the case of the boy that threw a stone and accidentally killed another. John's wisdom was respected by the people. He ran the justice system with a firm hand. His unfortunate circumstances are also recognised by this historian. This historian tells us that "the King of England was ever so unlucky". John could not help the fact that France came into the strong hands of King Philip II. Also, John was unfortunate when he lost his land in Normandy. This happened because of his lack of finances and this led to a lack of army and navy. He struggled to keep his land in Normandy.

Source number three is a modern cartoon image of King John with a bent sword. This image focuses on John's nickname "Soft Sword" showing that he could not keep his land and he could not maintain victory. John went into battle because he had married Isabella who was promised the baron Hugh of Lusignan. Hugh then complained to King Philip II of France and Philip invaded John's land in France. Most of John's barons happily welcomed Philip and by 1205 John had lost most of his land in France. These defeats earned John the new nickname "Soft Sword".

My fourth source shows John from a different perspective. He is shown as respectful and reverent as the body of the bishop came through the city. He put the quarrelling aside with the Archbishop as he put the coffin on his shoulders. This shows that John was a very "forgive and forget" type person. He humbly carried the body of one of the people that he had fallen out with, down the streets "...ignoring the mud of the streets." By this action, John proved that he could be humble and respectful even to those he argued with.

Question 2

Different periods in time, people have interpreted John differently. In the Victorian period, historians interpreted John as being bad. Their views were based on the views of monks who interpreted John as a bad king because he fell out with the church and then was excommunicated. Anything of this sort would have surely upset the monks and that generation of people. Queen Victoria, was also a religious person and the fact that John was in disagreement with the church, did not put him in her favour. On the other hand, those alive in the Tudor period would portrayed John as a good king because, like John, Henry also fell out with the church because he wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. At this time the Roman Catholic Church did handle with divorces because they didn't believe that divorce was right.

My first source is a cartoon film produced by "Walt Disney" was made in order to entertain people of all ages. It is based on the fictional character of Robin Hood. This source is not accurate when interpreting King John because the media often exaggerates both the good and the bad characters in a cartoon film. This is also an unreliable because it was made in the 20th century as the era of King John was in the 12th

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, and 13th century. The creator of this film may have got their idea of "Bad King John" from the Victorian period because the Victorians believed that John was a bad king because he fell out with the Roman Catholic Church and they were very religious. As shown in this picture, John is shown as a lion, attempting to swipe the fictional character of Robin Hood (the fox). This shows that John has been portrayed as a bad king and trying to capture the good. This is not completely accurate, because there is no evidence that "Robin Hood" existed therefore the images shown in this film may not have been true.

My second source gives balanced views about King John. This historian, writing in 1951 quite a long time after the era of John. Historians often give their views based on other sources, where this historian got his sources from are unknown. This historian says both good and bad views of John. "His lively mind and keen intelligence..." This shows that he was intelligent and he was a lively person. On the other hand, John is portrayed as "...ever so unlucky." The people in the 1950's and 1960's favoured John and interpreted him as a good king. Some of the people from the 1950's and 1960's gave balanced views about King John and how he ruled the country. Some people said he was "sympathetic saying that he worked hard." Other people referred to him as "...an administrative genius who ran the country..." well. Others said that he was unlucky but most of the views from the people of that time were positive views, interpreting John as a good king.

My third source is a modern cartoon picture of King John with a bent sword. This was illustrated in the late 20th century by a historian. This source is both reliable and unreliable. It is reliable because it refers to the nickname given to John, "Soft-Sword". Showing that he could not keep his land and he could not maintain victory. However it is unreliable because it is made a cartoon by the media and the media is known as being unreliable and often exaggerates and emphasise a point whether or not it is good or bad.

My fourth source was written about John, carrying the body of the Bishop, at his funeral. This source was written by the Bishop of Lincoln, in 1201. John had not fallen out with the church at this time, but yet this source was written about an event that took place before the foundation of the problem had started. This source is not biased, considering the fact that the workers in the church did not like John, but on the other hand, at the time that this source was written, John didn't have any problems with the

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church. This source shows John as respectful and that John and showed his respect by "...putting aside a royal pomp..." and helped the funeral procession of the Archbishop. This source is accurate and reliable because it was written at the time of King John. However it is unreliable because the source was written about an event, before the event had taken place. On the other hand, this procession took place as it was written.

UNIT B880 A SOCIETY IN DEPTH: SAMPLE 1

- (a) *How far was Martin Luther King responsible for the advancements in the Civil Rights Campaign in the 1950s and 1960s?*
- (b) *America was regarded as the Land of Liberty and opportunity. Do you agree? Explain how each source shows the diversity of experience in America between 1941 and 1973.*

Commentary

This coursework unit requires two sections to the assignment, one examining the role of an individual and the other evaluating some sources. The two parts to this assignment link well together. The introductory statement in part (b) provides a welcome sense of purpose to the source evaluation, which can become dry and meaningless. The part (a) response could do with an overview of the nature of the civil rights problems in the USA in the 1950s and of what the movement achieved. As it is, it jumps into the details of King's actions in Montgomery without any explanation of why a bus boycott was called. The first part of the response lacks any paragraphing, too. However, the comparisons with the three other leaders work well in weighing up King's role. The last paragraph shows that the candidate has learned a lot and can stand back at that point and make a judgement. The sources in part (b) show a good range, from texts, to statistics, to fiction. The response to part (b) is better than to part (a), with good contextual knowledge being used to explain the details of the evidence. This response deals with them individually although it would have been good to see the candidate draw some conclusions together at the end, using the evidence of the sources to comment on the proposition in the question in order to move further up the levels.

Mark: Band 4: 40

How far was Martin Luther King responsible for the advancements in the Civil Rights campaign in the 1950's and 60's.

Who is the person you think of when Civil rights are mentioned? Martin Luther King of course. The civil rights campaigner was born in 1929 and fought for justice for Black Americans. Martin Luther King is seen as one of the world's greatest martyrs because he died for what he believed. Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4th 1968 as he was leaving his motel room; his courageous life was cut short by a man named James Earl Ray. However Martin Luther King's memory lives on as we are reminded of his sacrifice every year on the third Monday in January.

Martin Luther King was first heard of when he began to organise the Montgomery bus boycotts with other African-American leaders. African American residents were asked to boycott the buses by walking and driving instead of using the local buses. The bus companies began to lose money and this resulted to segregation on buses becoming illegal; this was Martin Luther King's first real victory. However this protest started because of a woman called Rosa Parks who refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus to a white man. In January 1957 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was formed with MLK as their president. The following May, MLK led a mass march of 37,000 people to the front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. MLK had become the undisputed leader of the civil rights movement. In response to this march on September 9, 1957, the US Congress created the Civil Rights Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice; this was an official body that allowed African-American voter registration, desegregation, better education and housing throughout the South. Soon after this MLK wrote his first book, *Stride toward Freedom*. In January 1963 MLK announced he and the Freedom Fighters would go to Birmingham to fight the segregation laws, an injunction was issued forbidding any demonstrations and MLK and the other fighters were arrested. Upon his release there were more peaceful demonstrations; the police retaliated with water hoses, tear gas and vicious dogs. All this happened in the presence of TV news cameras, this was the first time the brutality of African-Americans was seen by the public and this created sympathy for them. Continuing the fight for civil rights and to celebrate and the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation on August 28, 1963, 200,000 people gathered in the front to the Lincoln Memorial. It was a peaceful protest, made up of African-Americans and whites, young and old. Most had come to hear MLK deliver his famous 'I had a dream speech'. In 1964 MLK was nominated for the Nobel Peace prize as someone who 'contributed the most to the furtherance of peace among men'. MLK divided the money between various civil rights organizations. In the winter of 1965 MLK led a march from Selma to Montgomery to demand voting reforms, the 600 marchers were stopped by state troopers who were armed with whips, clubs and tear gas. A court order overturning the injunction against the march

was issued and the marchers proceeded. By early 1967 MLK had become involved with the antiwar

As we can see Martin Luther King was a very important successful campaigner who is thought to of been the main leader of the civil rights movement. However there were many other people involved in the campaign. Should these people be forgotten? Take James Meredith for example; Meredith was the first African American to attend the University of Mississippi; he was rejected twice then accepted. On the 5th June 1966 Meredith started a solitary March Against Fear from Memphis to Jackson. Soon after the march Meredith was shot; Meredith rejoined the march on the 25th June. Meredith is known to be linked to MLK however Meredith opposed making the birthday of MLK becoming a national holiday, I think this shows Meredith thought there were other people that contributed as much as MLK did to the civil rights movement or maybe even more. Another significant activist was Medgar Evers a full time state field secretary for the NAACP. Evers also organised and participated in several sit in's against segregation. For his efforts he was beat and imprisoned. On the 11th June 1963 Medgar Evers was murdered because of his actions for civil rights, just like MLK. Medgar and MLK were both martyrs who died for what they believe in.

In 1939 Thurgood Marshall became the director of the NAACP's Legal Defence and Educational Fund. Over the next few years Marshall won 29 of the 32 cases that he argued before Supreme Court. One of his cases was that of Linda Brown which led to the integration of all schools. This was an important advancement for black Americans as now they could get an equal education. This happened without MLK's involvement. This shows that though MLK played a big part in the civil rights movement he did not have anything to do with one of the fundamental advancements in Black American history. The desegregation of schools led to most of the actions MLK then achieved however he did not start it. In 1964 the Civil Rights act was passed by President Johnson. This banned discrimination in public accommodations, in federally assisted programmes and employment. It also gave federal government new power to enforce desegregation and prosecute voting rights violation. After this in 1965 the Voting rights act was passed, this ended literacy tests for voting and allowed federal agents to monitor registration.

In conclusion I believe that Martin Luther King contributed to the civil rights movement greatly and he is responsible for a lot of the action made. MLK treated everybody equally and I think it was his peaceful manner that encouraged others to help and fight for what they believed; the marches he partook in helped him achieve his goals and were the most successful thing he did in my opinion. However from the research I have done I realised that there were many other people involved in the movement. These people should not be forgotten as some of them started the campaign, such as Rosa Parks. I think there should not be a Martin Luther King Day because this gives the impression that he fought solely for the equality of blacks, in my opinion we should still have a special day to remember the civil rights but it should be called Civil Rights Day and this would keep the memory of all the people that fought during the whole movement.

America was regarded as the Land of Liberty and opportunity. Do you agree? Explain how each source shows the diversity of experience in America between 1941 and 1973.

Source One clearly shows us what happened to Japanese Americans and how they were treated by Americans. This source presents to us the living conditions of the Japanese Americans in these camps, 'the camp was surrounded by barbed wire, guards with machine guns' this extract shows the Japanese were locked up and kept as prisoners. At that time America had been brought into the war because of Pearl Harbour. The American Government were very suspicious of Japanese spies this is why Japanese Americans were separated from the communities and put into camps.

This source was produced for Time Magazine, December 2nd 1991 by Frederick Otto. The magazine article was written to describe and show the ill treatment of Japanese Americans at the time. Source One is quite reliable because Frederick Otto was in the camps at the time however he wrote this article decades after the actual time this happened so Otto could of forgotten key events or he could of also exaggerated; Otto may add detail so people do not forget the cruelty that occurred. This source completely contradicts the idea of 'the Land of Liberty and opportunity' that America promotes. The Japanese were imprisoned against their will, this does not show freedom. The Japanese Americans were isolated because of the suspicions of their race. This shows diversity of experience because Italians and Germans were not treated differently to Americans even though they also were at war with America.

Source Two shows us the pure hatred towards communists in America as it describes the killings of 'Red sons of bitches' and the book sold three million copies; this shows that Americans wanted to read about 'commies' dying. At that time in America the country was petrified of Communism and the fact that Communism went against everything America apparently stood for; making your own way in the world, 'Rugged Individualism'.

The American Government were doing everything they could to stop communism entering America. An example of this extreme objection to Anti-Capitalism would be the case of the Hollywood Ten, 1947. They were Hollywood stars who were accused of being communists. The Ten men refused to answer questions so nobody ever found out if they really were. However they were jailed for a year and lost their careers.

The source is a novel and was written by Mickey Spillane in 1951. The book is completely imaginary so it contains no true events. This makes Source Two very unreliable however it does clearly show us the attitudes to 'Reds'. This source shows diversity in experience because the communists are not allowed to follow their own political views; this does not meet the 'Land of Liberty' idea.

Source Three presents to us the difference in wages for men and women. In the table it is clear that men were earning more money than women in every case even though they were filling the same occupation. At this time in America women should be earning the same wage as men because of the equal pay act that happened in 1963. However this table shows us men are still earning more money.

This source was produced by the US Department of Labour in 1965. It was made to show that wages are still not equal even after the pay act. Source Three is quite reliable because it was made by the government and it was produced at the time of the events. But it does not tell us the ages of the workers, how long they have worked and the jobs they do within the occupation. This is diversity in experience because women were experiencing different things than men. Women were leading controlled stereotypical lives and were earning less money than men.

Source Four shows us the decrease in poverty throughout 1959-1968 for Non whites and white people. However the table also presents to me that the percentage of Black people during these nine years lived in much more poverty than Non-Whites.

At this time in America Black people had been campaigning for equal civil rights and better lifestyles. It is clear that the percentage of poverty for Blacks decreases sharply during 1963-1965 this is due to the civil rights act and President Lyndon B Johnson. He had the concept of a Great Society where poverty was eradicated and therefore increased the minimum wage and focused help on those below the poverty line.

This source was written by a historian for a text book in 2000. Source four is very reliable because it is written by an historian who will have done a lot of research for this piece of information. The figures are also very accurate; this proves research and detail. This shows diversity in experience because black people were not receiving the same rights, lifestyles, education and acceptance as white people were. Black Americans were segregated from white people; black people had to attend different schools, bars and restaurants. They even had to sit in different sections on buses to white people until the bus boycotts started. America is seen as 'The Land of Liberty and Opportunity'; the treatment of black Americans does not meet this idea.

Source five shows us one of the murders that occurred at Kent State University. This dead boy is an American student who was protesting against the war; this tells us American soldiers were shooting their own youth. At that time in America the Vietnam War was taking place. A lot of students disagreed with the war and the killings of Vietnamese people; they were especially disgraced when Nixon bombed Cambodia, which is an innocent country in this war. The students started to protest. Protestors went to Washington where they sang songs like 'Hey, Hey LBJ how many kids did you kill today'. The kids in this song are to symbolise the Vietnamese children and also the US soldiers that were also being killed in the war. The youth were so against the war that they took up draft dodging; this is when some Americans, mainly students, refused to go and

fight. They publicly burnt their draft cards and some went into hiding. Some even fled to Sweden or England.

This source was made for a national newspaper in 1970. It was produced to show the Governments reactions to the protests and also the students trying to take control of their lives and education. It also was made to show the pure shock of the students. Source five is reliable because it is an actual photo from the time of the murders. However the photo does not tell us who killed the boy, who he is or any other information about the events. This source shows diversity in experience because the students are not allowed to express their own opinions about war and politics. Because the pupils are protesting and following their views about the war they are being shot. It also shows the American Government were oppressing their youth, controlling them and not letting them have the freedom America should be giving them.