

EXAMINER'S REPORT 2009

HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND

Paper 9671/01

Paper 1

General Comments

All candidates again tackled this examination in a positive manner. No candidate was totally out of their depth. The source based question still proved to be the more challenging section of the exam for those students who adopted a formulaic approach in their answers. However, again this year, a number of candidates made astute cross-references between the sources to construct a sound, comparative evaluation and arrive at a convincing judgement. Though, perhaps, fewer did this than in 2008.

Candidates who performed less well in essays often knew a sound amount of content but again did not shape it to the specific questions being asked. In contrast to past years there was a more even spread of answers across all the essay questions. The relentless focus upon the early contact period and the immediate period after 1840 was somewhat less apparent this year than in past examinations.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Candidates who performed less well in this question usually sought to challenge the validity of a particular source or sources. Candidates again sometimes wasted a considerable effort in trying to disprove completely the relevance of a particular source. If such an effort is undertaken, it requires great skill and care. Every Source was chosen for a considerable degree of relevance to the hypothesis. Argument as to why a particular Source might be more or less preferred in terms of analysis of the hypothesis was sometimes deficient in answers. Statements cross-referencing one or more Sources with others still need to be reinforced with brief examples to provide evidence for the argument. The key word 'honest' was often overlooked in responses to the sources.

Question 2

Answers generally provided some definition as to who constituted agents of 'vice and virtue' but candidates often lacked focus on explaining why these agents were in competition. Few answers noted that the agents of vice came to New Zealand for exploitative purposes. Sealers, Whalers and Traders were usually

accurately defined as agents of vice while missionaries represented the forces of goodness and light! Few answers noted that to be an over-simplification. Few candidates noted that 'agents of vice', such as Traders, did not necessarily see themselves as being in competition with missionaries. However, some of the other groups, such as Whalers, resented missionary interference in the sex trade. Missionaries, especially in the 1830s, but even before that date, disseminated the gospel to Maori, whom they believed were being subverted by European agents of vice. Missionary agents clearly viewed themselves as being competition with the agents of vice, as part of that great outreach in terms of a civilising mission that characterised the 19th century English world. This aspect of the question received little attention from candidates who often focussed upon a narrative of contact rather than an evaluation of reasons for competition. Clearly, the missionaries believed it was their duty to save Maori from corrupting forces, outlined in reports that detailed sexual misbehaviour and alcohol abuse, especially in the Bay of Islands.

Question 3

Candidates should have assessed the extent to which the issue of full imperial control was at the heart of the causes of conflicts between 1843 and 1860.

Perceived Pakeha transgressions of Maori sovereignty did much to trigger conflicts between the two peoples, especially in the first instance in the Wairau Massacre of 1843. The settlers had assumed strong notions of imperial control, implicit in their attempts to seize the Wairau lands. However, some more acute answers noted that this conflict also had its roots in an immediate clash over contesting ownership of land with those more distant roots to a desire for imperial control.

The Northern War in 1845 marked the first overt attempt to establish full imperial control. Some answers focused on the extent to which the King movement was a direct challenge to European aspirations for complete imperial control over New Zealand. By 1860, Maori had virtually created an independent state in the Waikato - a hindrance to the assertion of full British control.

The self-images of governors and settlers and the ethos (ideology) of a colonising and 'progressive' race all demanded that the British rule the whole of New Zealand, in fact as well as in name. The wars were more concerned with competing assertions of sovereignty, imperial control, on the part of Europeans, than land.

1-2 candidates also emphasised the complexity of the origins of the conflicts and the way in which they defied simple categorisation.

Question 4

Reference was needed to the impact of at least three major factors upon Maori by 1900.

War and disease and resulting population disruption and decline and the impact of 'legal' measures to relieve Maori of their land had led to the view that Maori were a conquered race. Some candidates did note that some Maori even accepted this view that they were a defeated nation while other candidates noted that the British and settlers often claimed to have 'conquered' Maori. Often candidates focused upon war without much analysis of the impact of disease and legal measures to 'conquer' Maori. Some answers almost exclusively focused upon the impact of war.

The development of Maori movements and institutions to promote Rangitiratanga King movement – Kotahitanga and Kauhanganui, leading to the establishment of the Maori Parliament – 1890 and the example of Parihaka were mentioned but not always in detail. The impact of the Young Maori Party - Te Rangi Hiroa, Maui Pomare etc to preserve Maori heritage and promote improved standards of health care received scant attention.

Question 5

Answers should have detailed the short-term exploitation or even plunder of New Zealand's natural resources which occurred **throughout** the nineteenth century. Resources subjected to a 'gold rush' mentality' could have included reference to:

Whales

Seals

Timber

Forests for kauri and other timbers and also to produce farmland

Gold mining.

Kauri Gum.

A 'gold rush mentality' was not confined to gold! An exclusive focus upon gold was not productive of good marks. But some essays were confined to this focus. Some candidates fitted the Vogel borrowing scheme into their answers. They intelligently noted that it also could be viewed as part of the 'boom and bust' cycle that characterised nineteenth century New Zealand history.

Question 6

Candidates should have noted that until 1853 New Zealand was a Crown Colony. A step towards self-government and eventual independence was taken in 1853 with the British acceptance of a Settler government with provincial assemblies and a House of Representatives.

Some candidates argued that the process of creating a fully independent nation did not really begin to occur until the 1870s and the work of Julius Vogel. Vogel's abolition of the provincial assemblies was viewed as a significant step in developing a greater sense of being a fully independent nation. Vogel recognised the need for a national programme for political development.

The Vogel initiative in abandoning provincial government in 1875 was a constitutional milestone. It created a national government which provided the 'nervous system' for an independent nation. Reference could have been made to the way Vogel was instrumental in developing this **national** as opposed to a provincial infrastructure and political consciousness. Often answers focused upon the economic impact of Vogel's policies rather than their political consequences.

The contribution of the Liberal government to the development of a fully politically independent nation was not explored in great detail. However, most candidates who answered this question agreed that a fully independent nation was not truly realised by 1900. But their focus was often upon the relative lack of economic independence by 1900, without making an explicit link to political independence. However, some candidates usefully noted that political independence could not be divorced from economic independence, although this idea was not always made explicit in their answers.

Question 7

The few answers to this question focused upon the poorer English migrants in general who were viewed as arriving *en masse*. There was almost no discussion of migrant waves of other ethnicities.

Question 8

The candidates who answered this question usually had a good grasp of the impact of the 'long depression' and the measures taken by the Liberal government to relieve suffering. Liberal legislation was usually canvassed in reasonable detail, as well as the extent to which social problems were remedied. The relative meanness of Old Age pensions was noted. Candidates who answered this question usually had a good grasp of the topic and generally tailored their material to suit the question.