

HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND

Paper 8284/01

Paper 1

General comments

Almost all candidates were able to answer four questions satisfactorily, demonstrating an appropriate level of knowledge and the ability to focus answers relevantly on the questions set. Answers in **Section B**, the essay questions, tended to adopt a descriptive rather than analytical approach, though better candidates were still able to shape their material to the specific requirements of the questions. Answers in **Section A**, the source-based question, were less impressive, with little evidence of source evaluation.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

The comments made in last year's report remain valid. Candidates are aware that they should not take the sources at face value, but their attempts at evaluation are almost always based on the provenance alone, rather than on analysing the reliability of the source content, to which the provenance can, of course, provide important clues. Even where cross-referencing is attempted, there seems to be little awareness that this should be a process of checking the reliability of a specific claim in a source against what another source has to say on the same matter. Often candidates simply limit themselves to noting that two sources say similar (or different) things, but without drawing any conclusion from this. The answers of weaker candidates demonstrate another failing – the inability to select relevant content from the sources either to support or to challenge the hypothesis. The source content must be *used* to show how it relates to the hypothesis.

Section B

Question 2

This was answered by almost all candidates. The material was generally well known and better answers were able to weigh the different impacts of the various sojourner groups to reach a conclusion. Weaker candidates tended merely to describe the different impacts, and/or were notably less capable of reaching a judgement, tending to accept uncritically the notion that no group was more important than any other.

Question 3

This was a fairly popular question but most answers were rather limited and descriptive, thus failing to adopt a methodical approach to dealing both with causes and consequences.

Question 4

There was some tendency to stray outside the prescribed period, or to lapse into rather generalised explanation. Few candidates were able to deal with anything more than the fundamental, underlying causes of conflict, i.e. different interpretations of the Treaty of Waitangi and the issue of sovereignty.

Question 5

Most candidates answered this question, and although there was plenty of description of the development of the New Zealand economy, most answers did manage to reach some assessment of government's role, though even some better candidates failed to appreciate that a proper evaluation would necessarily involve a consideration of non-governmental factors, or strayed onto the issue of *the extent to which* the economy was developing.

Question 7

There were a few answers to this question, and they demonstrated relevant knowledge. What they found much harder was to make an assessment of the importance of each of the two types of immigration.

Questions 6 and 8

There were very few answers to these questions, and most attempts were weak.