

EXAMINER'S REPORT 2010

NEW ZEALAND HISTORY 1800-1900

Paper 9761/01

October/November 2010

Paper 1

General Comments

Most candidates tackled this examination in a positive manner. Again this year, no candidate was totally at sea and bereft of anything meaningful that they could write. A small group of candidates did not achieve a good result either because they did not complete at least one essay or they answered questions in which they wrote extended material which was substantially irrelevant to the question. Usually in the same script there was at least one or even two high quality essays but the others unfortunately lacked relevance and depth. The source based question still proved to be a 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.

SECTION A

1. *'The departure of the New Zealand Company vessel, the Tory, was the crucial factor in the British Government's decision to enforce sovereignty over New Zealand.'* Use sources A – E to show how far the evidence supports this view.

Most candidates grasped the key idea that the apparently dramatic departure of the Tory and its dash to New Zealand was not the crucial factor in the British government's decision to enforce sovereignty over New Zealand. Some astute answers noted the words 'implied defiance' and 'legend' in Source E to launch a sound critique of the other sources which related Wakefield's energetic promotion of his enterprise. Some answers, however, then proceeded to attack Source E simply because it was written in 1958. A number of answers usefully noted that the departure of the Tory possibly pushed the government into a more hasty decision. Some answers quoted long extracts from the sources which was quite unnecessary. More cross-referencing of sources would have resulted in some candidates gaining an even higher mark. Some answers treated the question as a formal essay answer in which a great deal of additional material was enlisted to support the argument. This could result in a very extended analysis which probably ate into the time available for the three essays.

Students who grouped their sources into those supporting and opposing the hypothesis and then analysed them usually gained a better result than those who simply considered the sources sequentially with little or no cross-referencing.

SECTION B

- 2 Assess the extent to which European contact with Maori between 1800 and 1840 had negative consequences for Maori.

Most candidates tackled this question in a competent manner. Some answers had an almost exclusive focus upon the notion of 'fatal impact' and negative consequences for Maori before 1840. Again those candidates who provided examples to illustrate and support their argument achieved higher marks. It was more of a challenge to provide examples of positive aspects of European contact but a number of answers did so.

Reference to actual examples of positive and negative aspect of contact were always productive of the award of marks. Often candidates found it difficult to arrive at a final judgement about the question and the impact of Europeans upon a society which had survived and prospered for centuries.

- 3 'What did Maori think? - Land should be located at the heart of those troubles'. Assess the accuracy of this assessment of the causes of the conflicts which occurred in New Zealand between 1843 and 1863.

Fewer candidates tackled the question on conflict than in previous years. This question takes up the viewpoint of the Maori historian, Danny Keenan, that land as a cause of war should given pre-eminence in any discussion of the causes of these conflicts. Some candidates were sensitive to the notion that the Maori viewpoint about causes should be given considerable weight. They did not need to be aware of Keenan's work in particular or in any detail. Keenan has noted that 'Land Wars' is the term most preferred by Maori because land was always the most important issue into which many other matters flowed. Keenan noted that in naming the conflicts, historians have usually not consulted Maori about what they thought! Conflict over land conveys a precise notion of time, place and people consistent with the customary environment within which wars were viewed and understood by Maori. One very eloquent answer detailed the intense emotional bond which existed between Maori and the land and the way in which sovereignty was lodged in land.

The Wairau Affray, Northern and Taranaki Wars were three conflicts from which candidates could draw evidence to support their argument. However, some candidates shaded their discussion into a consideration of the Waikato War which was beyond the time frame of the question. But provided such a discussion only obliquely referred to the Waikato War it was not usually to the detriment of the overall result. However, few answers referred either to the Wairau Affray or the Northern War in any great detail.

OR

- 4 To what extent had the Pakeha settler government achieved victory over Maori by 1900?

Candidates needed to assess the extent of complete victory over Maori by government power with reference to the impact of these major factors upon Maori by 1900.

War and the impact of 'legal' measures to relieve Maori of their land had led to the view that Maori were a conquered race. By 1900 many government officials and Europeans in the population in general believed that a complete victory had been achieved. Some Maori even accepted this view that they were a defeated nation which might even become extinct.

However, few answers noted that valiant conduct in battle generated a lasting respect for Maori fighting ability which also generated a fear that perhaps Maori were still not completely conquered by 1900. No candidate noted that Maori discontent simmered and no answer mentioned the 'Dog Tax' episode in the Hokianga in 1898.

No answers mentioned the impact of the Young Maori Party - Te Rangi Hiroa, Maui Pomare – and its efforts to preserve Maori heritage and promote improved standards of health care.

However, most answers noted that Maori were eventually unable to protect or retain any substantial degree of sovereignty and land continued to pass out of Maori hands. Maori were impoverished and marginalised. However, most Maori never accepted that they were a conquered people. Answers could have focused upon some positive adaptations and strategies which Maori developed to ensure their survival.

A major weakness in many answers to this question was the lack of reference to the use of Law to achieve 'victory' over Maori after military stalemate or even failure to achieve a decisive victory by martial means.

5 How significant was the contribution of Maori to the development of the New Zealand economy between 1800 and 1900?

Most candidates who answered this question had a reasonable grasp of the Maori contribution to economic development before 1840. But many answers could have placed more stress on the way in which the supply of foodstuffs enabled infant European settlements to survive. Even after 1840 the Maori provision of foodstuffs for European settlements was often a vital factor in their survival. Europeans often lacked expertise in adjusting agricultural techniques to local conditions. Maori also developed a substantial seaborne trade to Auckland.

The development of substantial numbers of flour mills operated by Maori in the Waikato and elsewhere could also have been noted to advantage.

Candidates did note that war had a devastating impact on any Maori contribution to the economy. However, Maori enterprise still made a contribution, albeit on a much smaller scale after the 1860s. A major issue with this question was candidates who tried to incorporate learned material on the four key industries. Such a strategy had some merit but not when pages of writing focused on an activity such as quartz mining and then briefly noted that Maori contributions to such activities were minimal.

- 6 'Vogel's political and economic policies were crucial to the development of a sustainable future for New Zealand.' Evaluate the accuracy of this assessment of Vogel's role.

Candidates who answered this question usually had a sound grasp of the essentials of Vogel's economic policies and covered them in some detail. However, the abolition of the provinces and the way this action helped lead to a sustainable political future for New Zealand was not always discussed in any detail to support the overall argument. Vogel's abolition of the provincial assemblies was significant in creating a unitary state where resources could be pooled and organised on a more rational basis. Vogel also recognised the need for a national programme for political and economic development. Some candidates were aware of this aspect of Vogel's programme. Some candidates also tried to argue that a sustainable future came from other developments which were supposedly not linked to Vogel's programme. The development of pastoralism, refrigeration and even gold mining often received extended coverage. Such an analysis needed to be linked back carefully to the question. An extended piece of writing was sometimes devoted to a development such as pastoralism or refrigeration without noting that both depended upon the Vogel infrastructure for a diversified basis for exports.

The Vogel initiatives provided the 'nervous system' for a sustainable future.

- 7 Assess the extent to which migrants who settled in New Zealand between 1800 and 1900 were successful in escaping the problems which had driven them out of Europe.

Answers to this question almost exclusively focused upon the Wakefield English migrants and vaguely outlined problems that they left behind in England. Other migrant waves were ignored. Problems driving Scottish and Irish migrants to New Zealand seldom rated a mention, let alone any of the other more 'exotic' groups who arrived such as Chinese gold miners. New Zealand in the nineteenth century could have been viewed as a society where it was possible to achieve the ideal portrayed in colonising literature. The agricultural labourer could become a small landholder. New Zealand in the nineteenth century was a freer society where greater social mobility was possible. Those old world constraints were not so much in evidence. There was limited class divisiveness and status anxiety. The Liberal government encouraged the ideal of a 'labourer's paradise' with its land legislation.

In contrast, it was also possible to argue that the nature of the immigrant population combined with the situation they faced in New Zealand meant that migrants between 1850-1880 in New Zealand were 'atomised'. They were reduced to individual units – lacking a sense of community and still facing problems of poverty and lack of opportunity. Few candidates discussed in any detail whether migrant dreams were realised.

The use of the term 'Europe' should have alerted candidates to the fact that they should not have confined their considerations to the British isles and the migrants who came from that location. The wider the geographic net of any answer, the more productive of a higher assessment grade. But there were virtually no answers which explored the wider migrant catchment.

8 To what extent was the Liberal Government able to create 'a New World differing greatly from the Old World' by 1900?

The quotation is an extract from a speech by Sir George Grey in 1890. Some answers usefully noted that the 'long depression' from the late 1870s through to the mid 1890s produced a number of serious 'Old World' socio-economic problems. Problems such as 'sweating', poverty, and unemployment became major concerns for public opinion and parliament but tended not to be mentioned in any detail by candidates with some supporting examples.

Candidates could have noted that by 1900 New Zealand society, in some respects, lived up to the ideal of a 'Better Britain' portrayed in colonising literature. The agricultural labourer could become a small landholder. New Zealand in the nineteenth century was a freer society where greater social mobility was possible. The old world constraints were not in evidence. There was limited class divisiveness and status anxiety.

The Liberal government encouraged the ideal of a 'labourer's paradise' with its land legislation and in this context it was intriguing that no answer noted the introduction of old age pensions. Many European settlers might well have believed that a 'New World' had finally been created by the social legislation passed by the Liberal Government between 1890 and 1900.

In a counter argument to the quotation it could have been noted that there was a good deal of self-congratulation by the Liberal government and its subsequent historians about its programme of social reform. It has been argued that welfare provisions in New Zealand were not significantly in advance of comparable developments in some European states. New Zealand provisions for assistance for those in need were quite mean-spirited.