

Modern History 2019 v1.2

Unit 2 sample assessment instrument

September 2018

Investigation — historical essay based on research

This sample has been compiled by the QCAA to assist and support teachers in planning and developing assessment instruments for individual school settings.

Schools develop internal assessments for each senior subject, based on the learning described in Units 1 and 2 of the subject syllabus. Each unit objective must be assessed at least once.

Assessment objectives

This assessment instrument is used to determine student achievement in the following objectives:

1. comprehend terms, concepts and issues linked to movements in the Modern World
2. devise historical questions and conduct research associated with movements in the Modern World
3. analyse evidence from historical sources to show understanding about movements in the Modern World
4. synthesise evidence from historical sources to form a historical argument associated with movements in the Modern World
5. evaluate evidence from historical sources to make judgments about movements in the Modern World
6. create responses that communicate meaning to suit purpose about movements in the Modern World.

Subject	Modern History
Technique	Investigation — historical essay based on research
Unit	2: Movements in the Modern World
Topic	9: African-American civil rights movement, 1954–1968 (judgment in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> delivered – <i>Kerner Report</i> published)

Conditions			
Duration	Approximately 15 hours of class time; students may use class time and their own time to develop a response.		
Mode	Written	Length	1500–2000 words
Individual/group	Individual	Other	—
Resources available	Access to library and electronic resources.		
Context			
You have been investigating movements that have emerged in the Modern World. The first topic you studied focused on an aspect of the African-American civil rights movement, specifically the campaigns of nonviolent resistance that took place during the 1950s and 1960s.			
Task			
Investigate an area related to the campaigns of nonviolent resistance that formed a part of the African-American civil rights movement, and write an essay based on your research.			
Key issues raised in class and/or issues that you identify may become a basis for your investigation.			
Your historical essay based on research requires sustained analysis, evaluation and synthesis of evidence from historical sources to fully support the hypothesis.			
To complete this task, you must:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • devise your own key inquiry question • conduct your investigation by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – collecting, analysing and synthesising primary and secondary sources – locating and using information beyond your own knowledge and what has been provided in class • write a historical essay based on research that has the following features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a hypothesis you have generated – an introduction (which sets context, and includes your hypothesis and outline of the argument) – body paragraphs with topic sentences (where you analyse, evaluate and synthesise evidence from historical sources) – a conclusion (which draws together the main ideas and arguments) – appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar • practise ethical scholarship by using a recognised system of referencing to acknowledge the sources (including a reference list). 			
Stimulus			
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Checkpoints

- 3 hours: Check progress (key inquiry question, background research, selection of possible sources).
- 7 hours: Check progress (possible hypothesis, evidence gathered).
- 10 hours: Check progress (hypothesis, essay plan).
- 13 hours: Check progress (draft).

Feedback**Authentication strategies**

- The teacher will provide class time for task completion.
- Students will provide documentation of their progress at each checkpoint.
- The teacher will conduct interviews or consultations with each student as they develop the response.

Scaffolding

- Possible ideas and concepts that can be used as a basis for further investigation will be discussed in class.
- Hypothesis development will be discussed and modelled in class.
- Guidelines for essay structure and referencing will be provided.