QUESTION 3: WHAT PROGRAMMES DID THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY IMPLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE 1960s?

SOURCE 3A

The source below focuses on the reasons for the establishment of community-based programmes by the Black Panther Party in the United States of America in the 1960s.

Famous for taking up guns in defence against police brutality, the members of the Black Panther Party had many other little known sides to their work. They organised community programmes [for African Americans] such as free breakfast for children, health clinics and shoes for children ...

The programmes were of key importance in the Panthers' strategy. Firstly they fed the hungry, gave out food, clothing and medical care to poverty-stricken African Americans. Secondly, it showed what could be achieved if you were organised ...

'A lot of people misunderstand the politics of these programmes; some people refer to them as reform programmes. They're not reform programmes, they're actually revolutionary community programmes. A revolutionary programme is started by revolutionaries, by those who want to change the existing system for a better system. A reform programme is set up by the existing exploitative system as an appeasing (peace-making) hand-out, to fool the people and to keep them quiet ...'

The first programme the Panthers organised was the Free Breakfast for Children. Lesley Johnson explains how this led her to get involved in the Panthers. 'Well, one of the things that I could immediately respect and admire the party for was its Breakfast for School Children Programme. You know my parents were both workers ... And there were times when I was growing up, the week's oatmeal or whatever would run out and I went to school hungry. So I really appreciated what the party was doing.'

[From http://www.socialistalternative.orge-black-panther-party-for-self-defense/. Accessed on 13 March 2019.]

3.1 Read Source 3A.

3.1.1 List THREE community programmes in the source that the Black Panther Party organised for African Americans. (3 x 1) (3)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3.1.2 According to the source, what were the TWO strategies that the Black Panther Party used to help poverty-stricken African Americans? (2 x 1) (2)

3.1.3 Explain what the Black Panther Party implied by 'A reform programme is set up by the existing exploitative system as an appeasing hand-out, to fool the people and to keep them quiet ...'. (2 x 2) (4)

3.1.4 Comment on the impact that the Free Breakfast Programme had on African American children. (2 x 2) (4)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SOURCE 3B

The photograph below shows African American women and children carrying free food bags that were distributed at the Black Panther Party offices in Oakland, California in 1969.



[From: http://images.app.goo.gl//CcDQGkoJETDJTXpb9. Accessed on 19 August 2019.]

3.2 Consult Source 3B.

3.2.1 Explain the messages that are conveyed in the photograph. (2 x 2) (4)

3.2.2 Using the information in the source and your own knowledge, comment on the usefulness of this source for a historian studying the programmes of the Black Panther Party. (2 x 2) (4)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3.3 Study Sources 3A and 3B. Explain how the information in Source 3A supports the evidence in Source 3B regarding the programmes of the Black Panther Party. (2 x 2) (4)

SOURCE 3C

The extract below is taken from a speech that was delivered by Ericka Huggins (activist of the Black Panther Party) at the Alternative Schools Conference on 23 and 24 May 1976. It focuses on how the Oakland Community School contributed to the upliftment of African American children in the United States of America.

This city needs to organise to get things done in education, housing and the courts and to also uplift the lives of the African Americans. I wanted to say that before I went on to talk about education …

I talked yesterday about the Oakland Community School, about alternative education and community schools. I'd like to begin today to give you a history of the Oakland Community School, why we started it, whom it serves and in what direction we feel we're heading.

First, we don't call ourselves an 'alternative school.' We know that we are, but the word 'alternative' has taken on such a negative meaning with black and poor people that in analysing who we were, whom we were serving and what we were trying to do, we decided to call ourselves a 'model school'.

We call Oakland Community School a 'model school' and it is. We serve 125 children. We're located in East Oakland. We serve children who have been labelled 'educationally disadvantaged', 'economically deprived' and 'uneducable'. We're working with children, who would be in public schools; who have not been to private schools or other alternatives; whose parents have no political affiliation (connection) and just want their children to have the best. I know we all want the best for our children. Children deserve the best because they are the future.

So, in 1971, as a result of harassment (persecution) that some children were getting in Oakland, (by some children I mean sons and daughters of members of the Black Panther Party) a group of parents and instructors got together and decided to form what was then called the Inter-communal Youth Institute in Oakland.

[From https://i.pinimg.com/originals/ee/c4/45/eec445e67979686e86227c6c0f86d32b.jpg. Accessed on 13 March 2019.]

3.4 Refer to Source 3C.

3.4.1 According to Ericka Huggins, what should the city of Oakland do to uplift the lives of African Americans? (3 x 1) (3)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3.4.2 Explain what Ericka Huggins implied by saying that Oakland Community School 'serve children who have been labelled "educationally disadvantaged", "economically deprived" and "uneducable" '. (2 x 2) (4)

3.4.3 Why, according to the source, was the Inter-communal Youth Institute established? (1 x 2) (2)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SOURCE 3D

The source below focuses on the strategies that the Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) used to disrupt the community programmes of the Black Panther Party.

Free food seemed relatively innocuous (harmless), but not to FBI head, J Edgar Hoover, who loathed (hated) the Black Panther Party (BPP) and declared war against them in 1969. He (Edgar Hoover) called the (Free Food) programme 'potentially the greatest threat to efforts by state authorities to destroy and render the BPP ineffective and what it stands for', and gave carte blanche (complete freedom) to law enforcement agencies to crush it.

The results were swift (sudden) and devastating (shocking). FBI agents went door-to-door in cities like Richmond in Virginia, telling parents that members of the BPP would teach their children about black nationalism. In San Francisco, writes historian Franziska Meister, parents were told the food was infected with contagious (spreadable) disease; free food sites in Oakland and Baltimore were raided by officers who harassed BPP members in front of terrified children, and participating children were photographed by the Chicago police.

'The night before the first breakfast programme in Chicago was supposed to open', a female Panther told historian Nik Heynan, 'the Chicago police broke into the church and mashed up all the food and urinated on it'.

Ultimately, these and other efforts to destroy the Black Panthers broke up the programme. In the end, though, the public visibility of the Panthers' breakfast programmes put pressure on political leaders to feed children before school …

… In 1975, the School Breakfast Programme was permanently authorised. Today, it helps feed over 14,57 million children before school and without the radical actions of the Black Panthers, it may never have happened.

[From http://www.history.com/news/free-school-breakfast-black-panther-party. Accessed on 16 May 2019.]

3.5 Use Source 3D.

3.5.1 State TWO ways in the source in which the FBI agents destroyed the programmes of the Black Panther Party. (2 x 1) (2)

3.5.2 Define the concept *black nationalism* in your own words. (1 x 2) (2)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3.6 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph of about EIGHT lines (about 80 words) explaining the programmes that the Black Panther Party implemented in the United States of America in the 1960s. (8)

[50]

LIVEWORKSHEETS