SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

QUESTION 3: WHAT WERE THE CONDITIONS INSIDE THE BRITISH CONCENTRATION CAMPS DURING THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR?

SOURCE 3A

This source describes how Black South Africans were treated in the concentration camps.

Officially, neither the British nor the Boers would allow blacks to join them in fighting against the other side. Yet it is believed that as many as 100 000 blacks served in the war as scouts, spies, drivers, labourers, stretcher bearers and servants.

In Mafikeng, 2 000 Africans were chased out and left to starve in the veld because of food shortage. Yet when the Boers attacked Mafikeng, it was largely the Barolong who trapped them, saving the city for the British. No thanks was given to the Barolong. No compensation for their loss of lives and cattle in this "white man's war".

Many black farmers suffered from loss of crops, cattle theft and burnt-down homes during the war.

On the Rand, black workers were trapped when the war started and the mines closed down. They could not get home. Thousands were put into concentration camps and kept there at a cost to Britain of less than a cent a day each. There were hundreds of deaths there, due to weaknesses and infection. In fact, there were even more deaths there than there were in the camps set up for the Boers.

[From *In Search of History* by J. Bottaro et al]

3.1 Read Source 3A.

3.1.1 What role did Blacks play during the South African War? (4 x 1) (4)

3.1.2 Explain what is meant the '*white man's war*'. (1 x 2) (2)

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3.1.4 List FOUR ways in which the South African War affected black farmers. (4 x 1) (4)

3.1.3 Comment on the British response to the Barolong after they had assisted them in saving Mafikeng. (1 x 2) (2)

3.1.5 Explain why Black South Africans felt betrayed by the British after the war. (2 x 2) (4)

SOURCE 3B

This source explains the experiences of farm-burning by the British Captain March Phillipps.

> At another farm a small girl interrupted her preparations for departure to play angrily their national anthem for us on a piano. We were carting people off. It was raining hard and blowing – a miserable hurried home-leaving; ransacked house, muddy soldiers, a distracted mother saving one or two little things and pushing along her children to the ox-wagon outside, and this poor little wretch in the midst of it pulling herself to strum a final defiance …
>
> We can do enough to make hatred of England and thirst for revenge the first duty of every Boer, and we can't effectively reduce the numbers of the men who will carry that duty out. Of course, it is not a question of the war only. It is a question of governing the country afterwards.
>
> [From *Focus* by B. Johanneson et al]

3.2 Study Source 3B.

3.2.1 What, according to the source, prompted the girl to sing the national anthem? (1 x 2) (2)

3.2.2 What conclusions can be drawn from the source regarding the British attitude towards Boer women and children? (1 x 2) (2)

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3.2.3 How, according to the source, did the Boers respond to the treatment of their women and children in the concentration camp? (2 x 1) (2)

SOURCE 3C

This source refers to a story of Emily Hobhouse on conditions in the concentration camps.

> The shelter was totally inadequate. When the 8, 10 or 12 persons who occupied a bell-tent were all packed into it, either to escape from the fierceness of the sun or dust or rainstorms, there was no room to move, and the atmosphere could not be described, even with the flaps lifted.
>
> There was no soap provided. The water supplied would not go around. No bedsteads or mattresses were to be had. Those, and they were the majority, who could not buy these things must go without.
>
> Fuel was scarce. The (food) ration was small, but, when the accrual amount did come up to the scale, it became a starvation rate.
>
> [From *Focus* by B. Johannes et al]

3.3 Consult Source 3C.

3.3.1 Use the information in the source to describe the conditions in the concentration camps. (4 x 1) (4)

3.3.2 Comment on how the treatment of the Afrikaner women and children was regarded as barbaric. (2 x 2) (4)

3.3.3 What, according to the source, was the consequence of food shortage in the camps? (1 x 1) (1)

3.3.4 Name the English woman who helped the women and children in the concentration camps. (1 x 1) (1)

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3.3.5 How does Source 3A complement (support) Source 3C in describing the conditions in the concentration camps? (2 x 2) (4)

SOURCE 3D

Thousands of children died from measles and dysentery (which is carried in unclean water) in the concentration camps. Sometimes whole families died. The experience of losing so many of their children made Boer women more determined to resist.



[From https://www.sahistory.org.za/topic/women-children-white-concentration-camps-during-anglo-boer-war-1900-1902: Accessed 12 August 2019.]

3.4 Use Source 3D.

3.4.1 What do you think was the intention of the photographer in publishing this picture? (2 x 2) (4)

3.4.2 Explain how Afrikaners might have felt about the British after viewing this picture. (1 x 2) (2)

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3.4.3 Name the TWO diseases in the source that led to the death of children in the concentration camps. (2 x 1) (2)

3.5 Use the relevant sources and your own knowledge and write a paragraph of SIX lines (60 words) explaining the conditions inside the British concentration camps during the South African War. (6)

[50]

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