

Name _____

SECTION A SOURCE-BASED QUESTION

WHAT WERE THE DIFFERENT REACTIONS TO THE RACIAL INTEGRATION OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS IN 1957?

3.1 Consult Source 3A.

SOURCE 3A

In the extract below, Elizabeth Eckford describes what happened when she arrived to start school at Central High, Little Rock on 3 September 1957. She was one of nine black students who were to be the first to attend the all-white school.

The night before when the governor had gone on television and announced that he had called out the Arkansas National Guard, I thought he had done this to insure the protection of all students. We did not have a telephone. So inevitably I was not contacted to let me know that Daisy Bates of the NAACP had arranged for some ministers to accompany the [nine black] students in a group. And so it was that I arrived alone...

I got off the bus ... I remember hearing the murmur of a crowd. But when I got to the corner where the school was I was reassured seeing these soldiers circling school grounds. And I saw students going to school. I saw the guards break ranks as students approached the sidewalks so that they could pass through to get to school.

And so I approached the guards at the corner, as I had seen the other students do, they closed ranks... So I walked further down the line of guards to where there was another sidewalk and I attempted to pass through there. But when I stepped up they crossed rifles... It was only then that I realised that they were barring me so that I wouldn't go to school...

So I headed in the opposite direction to where there was another bus stop. Safety to me meant getting to the bus stop. I think I sat there for a long time before a bus came. In the meantime, people were screaming behind me. What I would have described as a crowd before, to my ears sounded like a mob.

[From: FHO, *Eyes on the Prize: A Study Guide* (Blackside, 2006) p.30-31]

3.1.1 Who was Elizabeth Eckford?

(1 x 2) (2)

3.1.2 What do you understand by the term 'integration' in the context of Source 3A? (1 x 2) (2)

3.1.3 Why did Eckford believe that the governor had called out the Arkansas National Guard? (1 x 2) (2)

3.1.4 What does the information in Source 3A, suggest was the real reason why guards had been placed at the school? Support your answer with reference to any incident mentioned in the source (2 + 2) (4)

3.1.5 According to Source 3A, how did Eckford react when she could not enter the school. (1 x 2) (2)

3.2 Refer to Sources 3A, 3B and 3C

SOURCE 3A

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[From: FHAO, *Eyes on the Prize: A Study Guide* (Blackside, 2006) p.30-31]

SOURCE 3B

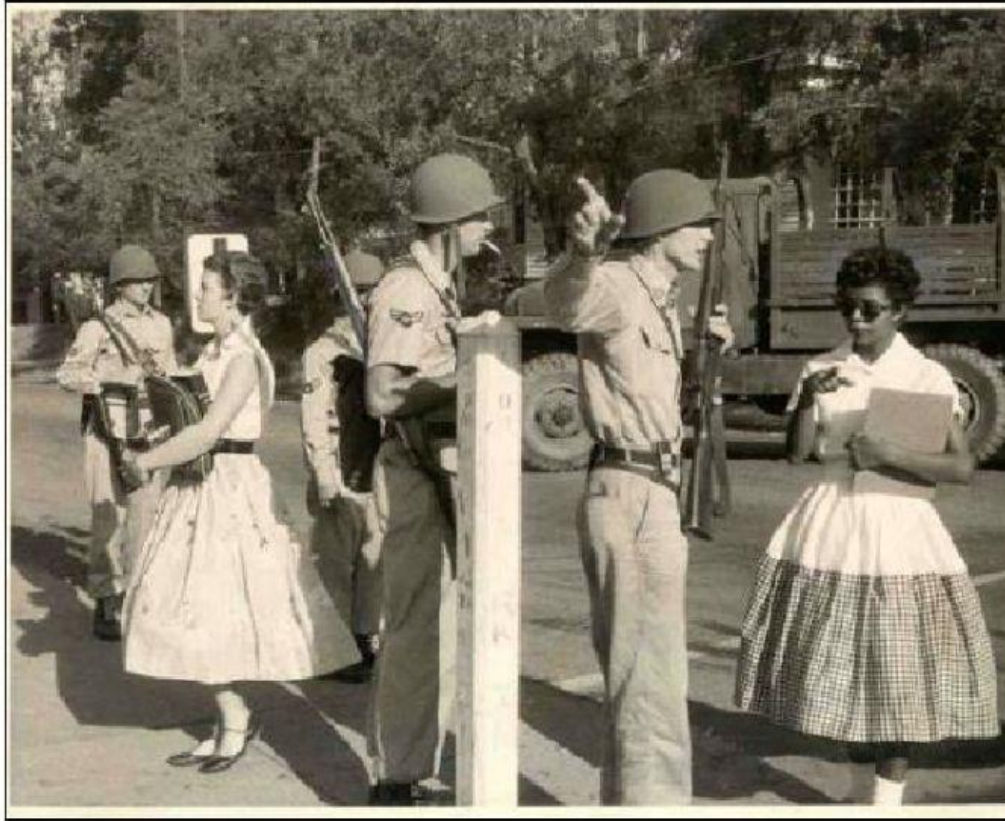
This photograph shows a young woman, Hazel Bryan, shouting abuse at Elizabeth Eckford. In the background are parents, students and National Guardsmen looking on. Five years later, in 1962, Bryan apologised to Eckford for her actions saying 'I was not thinking for myself...'



[From: Internet site: United Press International.
http://ethicsbob.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/little_rock_desegregation_1957.jpg. Accessed 15 September 2013]

SOURCE 3C

In this photograph Elizabeth Eckford is denied access to the school by a member of the Arkansas National Guard. Eckford is sent to another entrance but the soldiers allow a white student to pass and enter the school.



[From: Internet site: http://lchmemory.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/PageDocuments-Eckford_points.jpg, Accessed on 15 September 2013]

- 3.2.1 Identify **two** ways in which the photograph in Source 3B corroborates (supports) the account which Elizabeth Eckford gives in Source 3A.

(2 x 2) (4)

3.2.2 Identify **two** ways in which the photograph in Source 3C corroborates (supports) the account which Elizabeth Eckford gives in Source 3A.

(2 x 2) (4)

3.2.3 Explain why the photographs in Source 3B and 3C are useful to a historian studying the desegregation of schools in the USA.

(1 x 3) (3)

3.3 Study Source 3D

SOURCE 3D

Dr Benjamin Fine was the education editor of *The New York Times* sent to cover the desegregation of Central High, Little Rock. In this extract he describes the events on the 3 September as Elizabeth Eckford attempted to enter the school

...I saw a sweet little girl who looked about fifteen, walking alone. She tried several times to pass through the guard. The last time she tried, they put their bayonets in front of her. When they did she became panicky. For a moment she just stood there trembling. Then she calmed down and started walking towards the bus stop with the mob baying at her heels like a pack of hounds. The women were shouting 'Get her! Lynch her!' ... I sat down beside her and said, 'I'm a reporter from the New York Times. May I have your name?' She just sat there, her head down. Tears were streaming down her cheeks from under her sunglasses...

...there must have been five hundred around us by that time. I vaguely remember someone hollering [shouting], 'Get a rope and drag her over to this tree'. Suddenly I saw a white-haired, kind-faced woman fighting her way through the mob. She looked at Elizabeth and then screamed at the mob, 'leave the child alone! Why are you tormenting [upsetting] her? Six months from now you will hang your heads in shame.'...

...the irony of it is that during all this time the national guardsmen made no effort to protect Elizabeth or help me. Instead they threatened to have me arrested for inciting [provoking] a riot.

[From: D.Bates, *The Long Shadow of Little Rock: Memoir* (David Company, Inc, 1962) pp.69-71]

- 3.3.1 Elizabeth Eckford experienced hostility and kindness from the crowd.
Select information from the source which illustrates these two different reactions to Eckford's attempt to enter Central High School (2 x 2) (4)

3.3.3 Evaluate the reliability of Source 3D as an account of events at Central High School on 3 September 1957.

(4)

3.4 Refer to Source 3E

SOURCE 3E

This extract is taken from an oral interview with Craig Rains. He a white student at Central High School, Little Rock, a senior and an officer in the student council in 1957.

I don't remember exactly when I first realized that the school was going to be integrated, but I do remember that we were being told to do something that we might or might not want to do...so my first thought was not that we were going to have to go to school with blacks, that didn't bother me, but that we were being told by the federal government to do something and we didn't have any say-so in that.

One of my jobs as an officer in the student council was to raise the flags outside. That gave me an opportunity to see what was going on outside the school, to see the anger...it was an ugly attitude. Especially when Elizabeth Eckford came to try to get into school. And the crowd began to heckle her, and cheer and shout, as she walked along. I was just dumbfounded...well I can't believe that people would actually be this way to other people. I began to change from someone who was a moderate who, if I had my way, would have said, 'don't let's integrate, because it's the state's right to decide.' To someone who felt a real sense of compassion for these students. I also developed a real dislike for the people who were out there that were causing problems.

[From: H. Hampton and S.Fayer, *Voices of Freedom, An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement*]

3.4.1 Explain why Craig Rains, a student at Central High in 1957, was opposed to the racial integration of the school.

(2 x 2) (4)

3.4.2 What made Craig Rains change his attitude towards integration? (2 x 2)(4)

3.5 Use the information from the relevant sources and your knowledge to write a paragraph of about 8 lines (approximately 80 words) explaining the different reactions to the racial integration of Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. (8)