

Treaty of Waitangi – activities for NCEA 3 History

See also [NZ in the 19th Century in the Classroom \(NZHistory.net.nz\)](http://NZHistory.net.nz)

A. Reading the Treaty of Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi was prepared over just a few days in February 1840. On the day that it was first signed, there were versions in English and Maori. Given the intense debate that surrounds the Treaty, questions have been asked as to whether the Treaty was drafted too quickly. Some have even asked if the Crown officials knew what they were doing. William Hobson was a naval officer, not a lawyer or bureaucrat. Was the translation into Maori rushed, ambiguous or misleading?

Use the section [Read the Treaty](#) to help you complete the following activities.

1. Who was involved in drafting and preparing the Treaty for presentation to Maori at Waitangi?
2. Outline Henry Williams's role in preparing the Treaty for presentation at Waitangi.
3. What did the British believe they had gained as a result of the Treaty of Waitangi?
4. What did Maori believe they had agreed to?
5. What were some of the key differences between the Maori and English versions of the Treaty?
6. In your opinion, was the translation of the Treaty into Maori rushed, ambiguous or misleading? Explain your answer.
7. If you had been Hobson, what might you have done differently?
8. Why did most Maori gathered at Waitangi agree to sign the Treaty?

B. Practice essays: 3.4 examine a significant decision made by people in history, in an essay

Using the material available in NZHistory.net.nz about the [Treaty of Waitangi](#) and [pre-1840 contact](#) as well as your own knowledge and information, write **one** of the following practice essays for achievement standard 3.4: **examine a significant decision made by people in history, in an essay.**

1. What factors contributed to the British government's decision to offer Maori the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840? What were the consequences of this decision? **And/or**
2. Why did many Maori chiefs decide to sign the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840? What were the consequences of their decision to sign?

Remember structure is important

- A good essay must have good paragraphs.
- Each key or new idea in your essay must be a new paragraph.
- Think of a paragraph as having a set layout:
 - a sentence that outlines what the paragraph is about
 - sentences to support the topic of the paragraph

- a sentence to conclude the paragraph.
- Use the structure outlined below to help you write your answer.

Introduction - your opening paragraph should:

- identify the decision you have chosen to examine AND
- introduce your argument about the significance of this decision.

Body - write structured and sequenced paragraphs that:

- describe a significant decision made by people and the historical context in which that decision was made
- describe and explain factors that contributed to this decision being made
- evaluate the consequences of this decision
- describe and evaluate views of this decision by contemporary commentators and/or historians.

Conclusion - write a concluding paragraph that sums up your main ideas and argument and links them back to the focus of the essay.

You should aim to write about 800–1000 words.

For more detail on this achievement standard and criteria open [this Word document from the NZQA site.](#)