



Taken from *Red on Black* by J Seidman,

New Generation History. Grade 12 Learners Book.

**Question 2: What Role did The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Play in Healing South Africa from its Divided Past?**

Study Sources 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D to answer the questions that follow.

Refer to Source 2A.

- 2.1.1 Define the concept amnesty in your own words. 1x2 (2)
- 2.1.2 Quote any TWO conditions from the source under which amnesty was granted to perpetrators. 2x2 (4)
- 2.1.3 Use the information in the source and your own knowledge about the conditions for amnesty and explain whether the perpetrators would have voluntarily chosen to apply for amnesty. 1x3 (3)

Use Source 2B.

- 2.2.1 According to Mbeki, why was the formation of the TRC regarded as controversial? 1x3 (3)
- 2.2.2 Explain why you think it was important for people who appeared before the TRC to 'tell the truth'. 1x2 (2)

Study Source 2C.

- 2.3.1 What, according to Phosa, was 'an unbecoming tendency'? 1x2 (2)

2.3.2 Explain to what extent the evidence in Extract 1 can be regarded as one-sided. 2x2 (4)

2.3.3 Ferdi Hartzenberg stated that the TRC was out to destroy Afrikaners. Comment on whether you consider his view to be fair. 2x2 (4)

2.3.4 Compare Extracts 1 and 2. Explain how these extracts are similar regarding the amnesty process of the TRC. 2x2 (4)

Consult Source 2D.

2.4.1 Explain why the cartoonist depicted both Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu as looking surprised. 2x3 (6)

2.4.2 'Truth' has been portrayed as an ugly fish. Explain what the cartoonist wants you to think about the TRC process. 2x2 (4)

2.4.3 Comment to what extent you would consider the cartoonist's depiction of the TRC process as being biased. 2x2 (4)

2.5 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, explain in a paragraph of about EIGHT lines (about 80 words) the role of the amnesty committee during the TRC process. (8)

[50]

## **ADDENDUM**

Source 2A: This is an extract by Desmond Tutu which stipulates the conditions for the granting of amnesty.

The only conditions for gaining amnesty were:

- Human rights violations which occurred between 1960, the year of the Sharpeville massacre, and 1994, when President Mandela was inaugurated as the first democratically elected South African head of state.
- The act must have been politically motivated. Perpetrators did not qualify for amnesty if they killed because of personal greed, but they did qualify if they committed the act in response to an order by,

or on behalf of, a political organisation, such as the former apartheid state and its satellite Bantustan homelands, or a recognised liberation movement such as the ANC or PAC.

- The applicant had to make full disclosure of all the relevant facts relating to the offence for which amnesty was being sought. If those conditions were met, the law said that amnesty 'shall' be granted. Victims had the right to oppose applications for amnesty by trying to demonstrate that these conditions had not been met, but they had no right of veto over amnesty.

- *No Future Without Forgiveness* by D Tutu.

Source 2B: This extract by former President Thabo Mbeki focuses on the importance of telling the truth at the TRC hearings.

The great crevices (gaps) in our society which represented the absence of a national consensus about matters that are fundamental to the creation of the new society are also represented by the controversy which seems to have arisen around the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The hatred and animosity (hostilities) of the past will not go away unless the truth is told about what happened. The telling of the truth is painful to all of us. Where gross violations of human rights have occurred on either side of the conflict, they cannot but diminish anyone of us who were the perpetrators.

We are diminished by the acts which occurred, and not by their recounting to the Commission and the nation. Something of what we are worth will be restored by the courage we show by telling the truth and admitting that a wrong was done where it was done.

- *The Life And Times Of Thabo Mbeki* by A Hadland and J Rantao.

Source 2C: This source consists of two extracts.

**Extract 1: This extract highlights Matthews Phosa's opinion of why the ANC should not apply for amnesty. Phosa was the premier of Mpumalanga at the time and was speaking at the launch of Mpumalanga Times newspaper (date unknown).**

'There is an unbecoming tendency developing which seeks to equate the struggle against apartheid with those who enforced it despite the fact that apartheid was declared a crime against humanity by the UN,' he said.

On ANC members applying for amnesty to the TRC, he said: 'I hope not to be misunderstood as this has previously happened.' If the ANC members acted outside the organisation's policies and committed human rights violations, they definitely had to apply for amnesty. Similarly, if the TRC's investigation found any human rights violations then 'we should apply for amnesty', Phosa said. However, the ANC would not apply for amnesty for legitimate acts against apartheid.

**Extract 2: This source focuses on the Conservative Party's response to the TRC's refusal to grant amnesty for two of its supporters.**

The CP said on Wednesday it was 'shocked' that two right-wing political prisoners, Jean du Plessis and Jean van Wyk, had been refused amnesty. CP leader, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg, claimed the refusal

confirmed the bias of the TRC and that its sole intention was the 'destruction of the Afrikaners'. Hartzenberg said Du Plessis and Van Wyk qualified for amnesty on all criteria but were being refused amnesty by a 'clearly subjective commission'.

The alleged crimes in question occurred in 1991, long before the cut-off date for amnesty. In the case of Mr du Plessis, no one was injured or died in the action. 'This is in stark contrast to, for instance, the happenings at Shell House, in which case the attorney general recently decided that there would be no prosecution,' Hartzenberg said. 'This confirms the total partiality of the so-called TRC and that it has only one objective, namely the destruction of the Afrikaners. This left no doubt that there was no benefit in Afrikaners applying for amnesty and that Afrikaners should lend no credence (credibility) to the Commission,' Hartzenberg said.

- [http://www.TRC/SAPA\\_11december1996\\_CP\\_shocked\\_](http://www.TRC/SAPA_11december1996_CP_shocked_). Accessed on 08 August 2021]

Source 2D: This is a cartoon is Dr Jack's view of the TRC report that was presented to President Nelson Mandela by the TRC chairperson Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1998. The word 'ELUSIVE' means 'difficult to catch'.



- [www.cdn.24.co.za](http://www.cdn.24.co.za) accessed on 08 August 2021.

Question 3: Civil Resistance in South Africa 1970's- The Black Consciousness Movement.

Explain to what extent the ideas of Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness ideology influenced South Africans to resist against Apartheid in the 1970's

Question 4: The Negotiated Settlement of the 1990's.

“Various episodes of violence took place frequently between 1990 and 1994. These episodes nearly derailed the negotiation process, however due to the commitment of many South African's the nation managed to transition successfully from Apartheid to Democracy in 1994.”

Critically examine the above quote and discuss the various events between 1990 and 1994.

TOTAL [150]