

## BOOK REVIEWS

*New Generation History: Grade 11 learner's book*

(New Generation Publishers, 2015, 358 pp. ISBN 13: 978-1-920321-96-3)

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*New Generation History for Grade 11* was compiled by a team of highly qualified and experienced History teaching practitioners. The book is quite impressive, learner-friendly, as well as highly attractive with a memorable front cover, riddled with photographs of some of the most important figures in modern history.

The authors of this textbook set out to address the demands of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) for History in Grade 11. Regarding the format of the textbook, the contents page (p. vi) is accurate, as is the index and the bibliography on p. 348. The introduction “Note to the 21st century history learner” is sufficiently descriptive. A section on “History in the South African Context” is given on p. ii and another on “History and the world of work” on pp. iii. There is also a page dedicated to historical concepts, such as cause and effect and time and chronology on p. v.

*New Generation History* is laid out in a well-organized fashion as it progresses through all the content specified in the official curriculum. It is abundantly equipped with descriptions, definitions and concept summaries. There are many other constructive features within this textbook, for example that a good range of media from both primary and secondary sources have been used. The sources which have been selected, which include maps, photographs, maps, cartoons and diagrams, are of the highest applicability and are also very commendable. The learner activities are appropriate and of the highest

quality and to achieve the purpose of learning History. Unfortunately, no model answers have been included at the end of the book.

*New Generation History* is also envisioned for inclusive education purposes, and there is no overt evidence of prejudice in terms of race, gender or religion. The examples used are very relevant in terms of teaching for non-racialism and equality. The writing style and language usage is appropriate for this grade, although there are some errors in grammar and style. These, however, are not enough to detract from the overall quality of the textbook.

In conclusion, *New Generation History's* content is reasonable, and as such, it will be a valuable resource for high school teachers of Grade 11 History. The authors approach the topics in a thought-provoking and original way, and there are ample amounts of highly enjoyable assessment activities for learners to complete. With the addition of improved editing and careful proof-reading, plus the inclusion of model answers for the exam exemplars, the textbook would have received a much more favourable review.

*The shouting in the dark*

**(Jacana Media [Pty] Ltd, 2015, 247 pp. ISBN 978-1-4314-2233-3)**

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*The shouting in the dark* is an excellent historical fiction book reflecting what life appeared to be like in colonial and apartheid South Africa, but particularly during the 1970s. It constructs a representation of the family life of a “white” (immigrant) family seeing South Africa through the eyes of a young “white” girl. Most historical novels that deal with the difficulties in colonial and apartheid South Africa tend to be about “Black”, “Indian” or “Coloured people. However, the author’s aim in this book is to show that South Africa was a land that was divided not only across the race boundaries, but also within families.