Chapter review

Short-answer questions

1. How was apartheid introduced and what were some main laws?

1. How did the African National Congress fight against apartheid in South Africa?

1. Why were the Sharpeville Massacre and Soweto Riots such significant events?

1. Why did apartheid collapse?

Analyse the document’s views

This is an extract from Nelson Mandela’s speech at his trial in 1964, explaining the ANC’s decision to adopt violent strategies.

*Four forms of violence are possible. There is sabotage, there is guerrilla warfare, there is terrorism and there is open revolution. We chose to adopt the first method and to exhaust it before taking any other decision.*

*In the light of our political background the choice was a logical one. Sabotage did not involve loss of life, and I offered the best hope for future race relations. Bitterness would be kept to a minimum and, if the policy bore fruit, democratic government could become a reality …*

*The initial plan was based on a careful analysis of the political and economic situation of our country. We believed that South Africa depended to a large extent on foreign capital and foreign trade. We felt that planned destruction of power plants, and interference with rail and telephone communications would tend to scare away capital from the country, making it more difficult for goods from industrial areas to reach the seaports on schedule, and would in the long run be a drain on the economic life of the country, thus compelling the voters of the country to reconsider their position …*

*This then was the plan. Umkhonto was to perform sabotage, and strict instructions were given to members right from the start, that on no account were they to injure or kill people in planning or carrying out operations.*

1. List the four violent options open to the ANC.

1. According to the document, how did it justify choosing sabotage?

1. According to the document, what was *Umkhonto we Sizwe* hoping that sabotage would achieve?

1. Using your own knowledge, explain how the Sharpeville Massacre motivated the ANC to change its approach to fighting against apartheid.

1. Explain the strengths and weaknesses of Mandela’s point of view.

Extended-response question

Write a considered response to this statement about Nelson Mandela: ‘*Mandela was both a symbol of the government’s policy of apartheid as well as a symbol of hope*.’

To what extent do you agree or disagree? Provide detailed examples to support your answer.

* To begin this question, you will need to make a list of ways in which the government ‘persecuted’ the South African population – for example, the apartheid policies themselves. Also consider key events such as the Sharpeville Massacre, the Soweto Riots and Steve Biko’s death in custody.
* Ask yourself, how did Mandela attempt to confront apartheid in South Africa? Make a list of his involvement, including the ANC, Freedom Charter, *Umkhonto we Sizwe* and Rivonia Trial.
* Brainstorm what a ‘symbol’ is. The words ‘represents’, ‘demonstrates’ or ‘explains’ are a helpful starting point. How could Mandela ‘symbolise’ anything?
* The crucial part is using these lists to answer the question. In what ways did Mandela symbolise government violence? And in what ways did he symbolise hope? In what ways did he not do so?