

Question 16

b) The Tet offensive in 1968 was a significant part of Nth Vietnam's strategy in achieving victory in the second Indochina War. It was designed to break the political + military will of the South + USA, demonstrate to not only their enemy but the world that uprisings in ^{the} South could not be put down + place increased pressure on USA to withdraw from Vietnam.

the North Vietnamese Army, Viet Cong + North National Liberation Front bombed 30 major cities + towns in the hope of destroying valuable assets of the South Vietnamese. This was a different strategy for the North who usually stayed with traditional guerilla warfare tactics such as the use of tunnels ^{or} 'fortified cities' to surprise the enemy their main attack was based on psychological warfare +

playing on the minds of the enemy, especially the US who were not used to such tactics. The tunnels comprised of hidden entrances/exits as well as caches of food, weaponry + peasant clothing. The ~~NVA~~ NLF + Vietcong were able to 'melt' in with civilians + the enemy were unable to tell the difference between a peasant + a member of the Vietcong. The North also employed methods such as booby traps, to disable the South + the USA. Unsuspecting victims would continuously fall into pits with spikes facing upward covered in faeces.

The USA + South Vietnamese (ARVN) on the other had, employed traditional American tactics such as search + destroy missions, the use of helicopters, infiltration + the 'hearts + minds campaign'. Strategic hamlets, operation Phoenix, Operation Rolling Thunder, The Mai Lai massacre

+ the Gulf of Tonkin incident, ~~as well~~ as well as the ~~Tet~~ ^{Tet} offensive collaborated in a war of attrition on both sides. The repercussions were felt not only on the war's front but also on the homefront of USA.

The 1968 ~~also~~ Tet offensive along with their traditional guerrilla warfare techniques + tactics allowed Nth Vietnam to secure victory in the Second Indochina War + overcome lots of difficulty.