



Empathetic reportage

The Shah left Iran on January 16th 1979 never to return. At the time he left it was suspected, but not confirmed, that he was actually fleeing the revolution. However, even his most trusted advisors did not know for sure that he had no intention of returning. While some (indeed most!) Iranians were jubilant that he had gone this was not the universal feeling. Some wanted him to stay and face trial. Some wanted him to return with foreign support as he had done in 1953 and restore the monarchy. Some simply wanted him to officially abdicate.

Your task is to imagine that that you were in Tehran on January 16th 1979 and have just heard on the radio that the Shah has departed from the airport. You are to write three short letters (of around 350 words each) to friends outside of Iran. Write as

- a monarchist who supported the Shah
- a democrat who supports Bakhtiar and his appointment as Prime Minister
- a follower of Ayatollah Khomeini

Write in the voice of the different supporters and make it clear what has just happened, but more importantly, your hopes/fears for the future of Iran. Adopt the language, the opinions and the emotions of the different groups.

Please pay attention to the Learning Requirements against which you will be assessed.

Knowledge and Understanding	Inquiry and Analysis	Reflection and Evaluation	Communication
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of people, places, events and ideas in the history of societies in selected periods and places since c 1500.	Apply the skills of historical inquiry, including critical analysis.	Reflect on the short-term and long-term impacts of individuals, events, and phenomena.	Communicate relevant arguments using subject-specific language and conventions.
Formulate hypotheses and/or focusing questions and apply them to explain historical concepts.	Construct reasoned historical arguments based on a critical understanding of evidence from the sources.	Evaluate why individuals and groups acted in certain ways at particular times.	

You have one week of class time for this assessment.