Describe the events that shocked the world in Birmingham in 1963

Explain why the events in Birmingham were useful to the civil rights movement
Problems for the civil rights movement by 1962

- By 1962 it seemed that the civil rights demonstrations had made very limited progress
- Martin Luther King and other leaders never knew if they were going to be successful
- A large demonstration in Albany with MLK and the SCLC did not achieve any real changes
- Many protesters were disheartened

OTHER problems:
- The demonstrations required large numbers of people prepared break the law and risk going to prison – they might risk losing their jobs and families would suffer
- King’s reputation had weakened
GRAB THE HEADLINES!

BE SUCCESSFUL!

Choose the most segregated city in the USA!
Choose the one with the worst record of police brutality towards black people in the USA!
Choose the city where the KKK was one of the most violent in the USA and has the full support of the police force!
Choose the city where the most bombs are used against black people!
Choose the city with a violent, racist police chief!
Choose a city in a state with a governor totally opposed to the civil rights movement!
Choose Birmingham, Alabama!
Known as ‘Bombingham’

NOT to be confused with Birmingham in England!

The police Chief was Eugene ‘Bull’ Connor

The Alabama state governor was George Wallace
Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!

George Wallace

Eugene ‘Bull’ Connor
The two main leaders of the demonstration were Rev. Martin Luther King Jr and Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth. The demonstration's objectives were to desegregate public facilities and department stores. Both leaders were put in prison for planning to break an order not to march.

I guess it is easy for those who have never felt segregation to say wait.
When MLK and Shuttlesworth were released from prison

New campaign plan: Project C (C= confrontation)

Hoped to provoke Connor to extreme action – leading to shocking images

At first demonstrations, sit-ins etc. achieved little

Next they adopted a high risk strategy: using children

Again – realised the importance of images – television and print media

Hoped to cause a swing in public opinion

This would force the US government to take action
2nd – 3rd May, 1963
The world was shocked BUT

The SCLC and MLK wanted to stop the marches – good publicity but terrible cost

Local businessmen knew their businesses would be damaged by the bad publicity

Even local black people were unhappy – they would have to live with the consequences

There was a deal made to desegregate water fountains, lunch counters, toilets and changing rooms

The local KKK were furious

Riots and firebombs – many injured

Was non-violent peaceful protest the best policy?
He was forced to take action to avoid the violence spreading

Appeared on television and promised to take action on racism

He ordered an end to segregation in Birmingham.

13th May – 3,000 federal troops arrived to restore order.

Carry out activity 1 on page 73
Was Project C effective?

Use the information on page 72 to make a diagram to show its effectiveness (and limitations)
Choose one of the two questions on page 74 of the textbook to answer

- National 5: - 8 mark essay
  - To what extent did the civil rights protests of the 1950s and 60s make a real improvement to the lives of black Americans? (8 marks) (you need balance – ie show the successes AND the failures)

- National 4
  - How successful were the civil rights protest between 1955 and 1962? – information poster