



To what extent was Rudolf Abel treated fairly by America's justice system in the case of 1957-62?

Daisy, Upper 6

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

I've always been interested in the Cold War and had wanted to know more about it, especially the espionage factor of it. After watching a film called 'Bridge of Spies' I was inspired to pursue this interest in the Cold War by following the soviet spy the film is based on, Rudolf Abel. I thought this would be a good way to learn about the Cold War and espionage while also looking at morality questions.

Going into my research I expected to conclude that Rudolf Abel did not receive a fair trial due to the fact it was unlikely to be impartial. This was because of the external factors such as the hangover of McCarthyism and the Red Scare plaguing America with paranoia. However, on researching - although I did find the trial was unlikely impartial- Rudolf Abel's final verdict I consider to be just. This is because he didn't receive the death penalty and was even returned to his own country in exchange for Gary Powers due to the brilliant defense by James Donovan. He recognised Abel's importance in future negotiation with Russia and therefore reached an outcome the benefitted both countries

A large proportion of my research came from old New York Times newspaper articles which were very interesting to read. They highlighted not only the facts of Abel's case but also outlined the opinions of the time and so were very useful to my final conclusion. My research was also interesting as I was researching something I largely had no idea about and therefore the reading was all really interesting.

I largely did [the EPQ] because I know the benefits of learning the skills developed in an EPQ such as referencing and research would be really useful for my futures studies at university as they're all transferable skills. However, I also did it as independently learning and producing a question on a topic of my choice was highly appealing to me and an interesting way to pass my time.

After A-levels I plan to take a gap year to travel and work abroad. After that I have applied to university to study English Literature with History of Art.

