

Year 9 History

Knowledge Organiser

World War Two, 1939-45

Term 1

Name:

Class:



Enquiry Question:

Why did a Second World War break out and how did Britain and other countries respond to this new threat?

Big Questions:

- 1) What were the causes of World War II?
- 2) What was Blitzkrieg and how successful was it?
- 3) What was the evacuation of Dunkirk and was it a success or failure?
- 4) Why were people evacuated in Britain?
- 5) What was it like to be a young person in Nazi Germany?
- 6) Was the Battle of Britain a turning point?
- 7) What was the impact of the Blitz on Coventry?
- 8) How did the Second World War change the role of women?

From 1939 to 1945 the conflict that has come to be known as World War II was fought across Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. The **Axis Powers**, Germany, Italy, and Japan, fought the **Allies**, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and the United States, in one of the most destructive conflicts in history. Ultimately the total deaths would be counted in the millions, not only soldiers but civilians as well. Indeed, World War II saw a systematised, industrial genocide unlike anything seen before.

For the Axis Powers, expansionism was a driving factor behind the decisions to go to war. Germany was a growing industrial power but lacking the overseas colonial empire of other powers, such as the UK. In addition, the territorial losses of 1918 as a result of the end of World War I impelled the German population to attempt expansion throughout Europe. Meanwhile, Japan sought to build its own empire throughout the Pacific.

The Allies, on the other hand, entered the war for various other reasons. The UK declared war on Germany after the German invasion of Poland in 1939. The US and the Soviet Union were both brought into the main conflict as a result of direct attacks.

Over six years of war would be fought in Europe. The complete destruction of industrial power throughout central Europe, disruptions of populations, and the horrors revealed by genocide would leave Europe in need of complete rebuilding. The post-war world would be shaped by the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, the two main victors of the war, as the Cold War began to express itself.

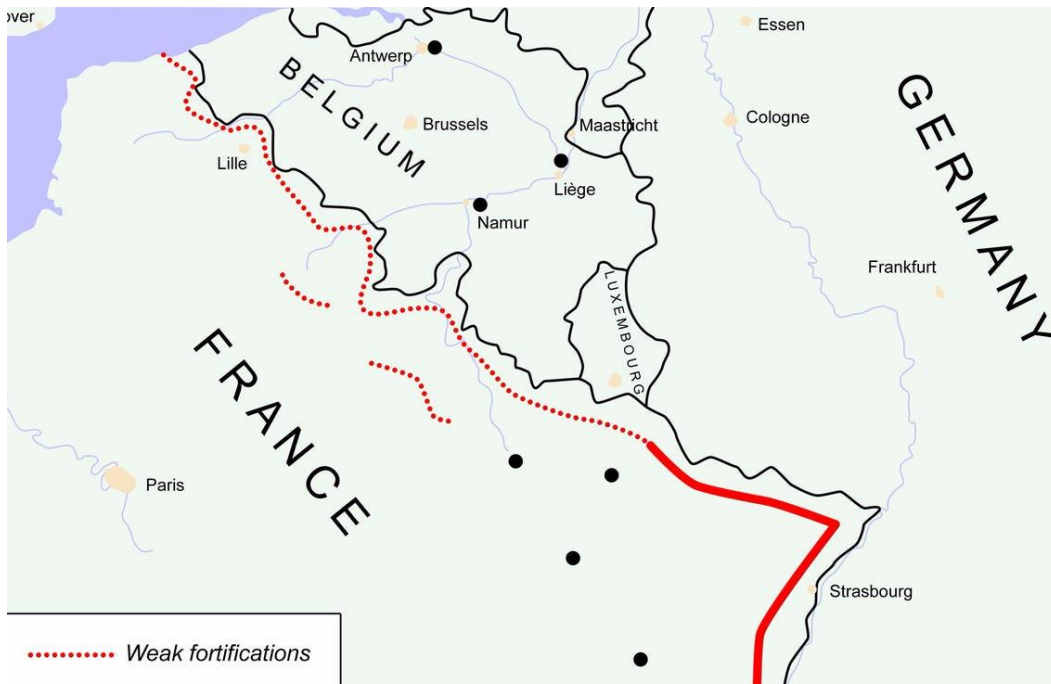
Big Question 1

What were the causes of World War II?

<p>Economic Depression</p> 	<p>Started by the Wall Street Crash in October 1929 – the Great Depression led to widespread unemployment and shrinking economies, allowing for Hitler to promise a stronger Germany.</p>
<p>Japan's Militarism</p>	<p>Japan turned to their army to expand – they invaded China and ignored the League of Nations when told to stand down.</p>
<p>Germany's Militarism</p> 	<p>Hitler built up his armed forces and began to invade new territory – Rhineland, Austria and Czechoslovakia – along with making alliances.</p>
<p>Nazi-Soviet Pact</p>	<p>An agreement signed between Hitler and Stalin promising to avoid aggression towards one another.</p>
<p>Failure of Appeasement</p> 	<p>Neville Chamberlain unsuccessfully attempted to avoid conflict by giving in to Hitler's demands.</p>
<p>Pacts/Alliances</p>	<p>Britain and France had agreed to defend Poland if Hitler invaded – they did this on the 1st September 1939.</p>
<p>Failure of the League of Nations</p> 	<p>Set up in 1919 – a failed peacekeeping organisation that wanted countries to settle their disagreements through negotiation rather than by force.</p>
<p>Treaty of Versailles</p>	<p>Signed in June 1919 – Germany had to accept guilt for the war along with reparations to be paid and land lost.</p>
 <p>Italy's Militarism</p>	<p>Mussolini wanted to expand his empire – he invaded Ethiopia in the 1930s and used brutal methods to capture it.</p>

Big Question 2

What was Blitzkrieg and how successful was it?



Blitzkrieg

Weak point in enemy's lines targeted
One(ish) main point of attack

Attackers advance against weak point

Attackers push through opening
Rear forces move in for envelopment

Second envelopment develops
Main force continues advance
Envelopment completed

Deep Battle

No specific weak point is targeted or exists in enemy's lines
Several points of attack. Huge reserves at the ready.

Defenses begin to break down and holes develop in enemy's lines
Reserves move in to support the lines of advance that are working.

Attackers exploit hole in the line and set up envelopments

Envelopments completed
Attackers drive deep behind enemy lines to destroy supply & communication lines
Envelopment completed

Big Question 3

What was the evacuation of Dunkirk and was it a success or failure?

Dunkirk was a success	Dunkirk was a failure
Greeted favourably by French citizens	Left behind 2,500 guns, 84,500 vehicles, 77,000 tons of ammunition, 416,000 tons of supplies, 165,000 tons of petrol
Described as an 'epic withdrawal' and an 'amazing rescue' by the British press	68,000 soldiers killed or taken prisoner
Winston Churchill was able to spin it to be a propaganda success	Some soldiers stole food from local people
Press described Britain as "undefeated"	Seen as "victory plucked from defeat" – military defeat
Huge boost to British morale	Left behind 475 tanks, 1000 heavy guns and 400 anti-tank guns
Hoped that 50,000 men would be rescued – 340,000 men were rescued	



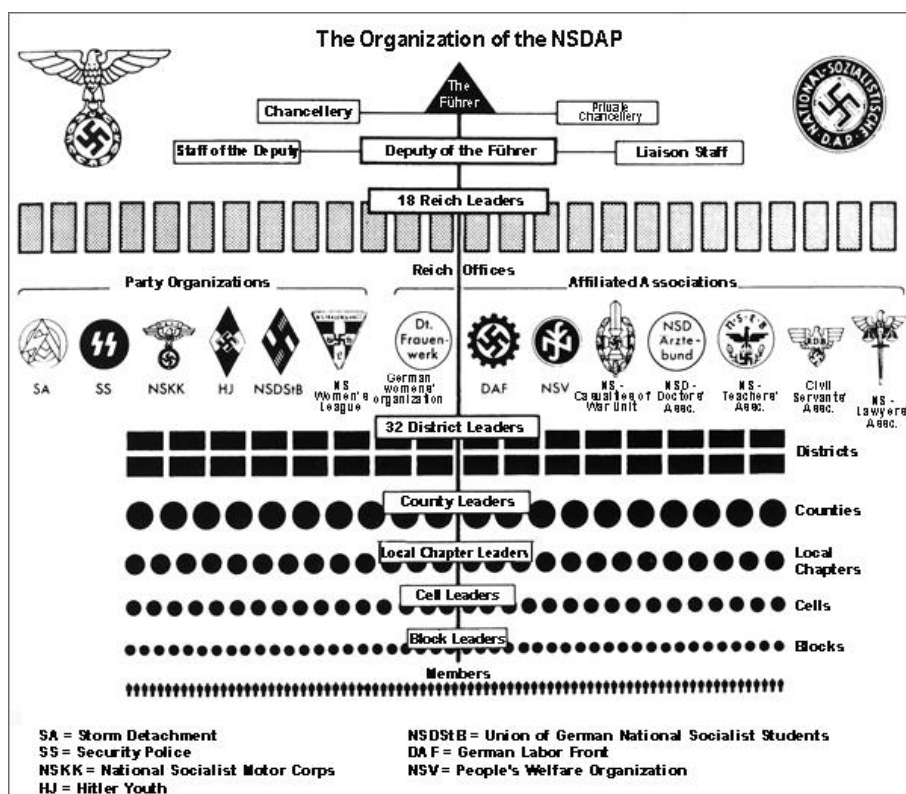
Big Question 4

Why were people evacuated in Britain?

1.9 million children left their city homes for a life in the country, where they were safe.	Some children were separated from brothers or sisters when they were chosen by the host families.
Some hosts took the parcels sent from the children's parents in the city and gave them to their own children.	Some children made their lonely hosts lives much more enjoyable during the war.
Children were told by their parents they were going on a school trip and didn't discover the truth until they arrived at their destination.	Many children loved their new lives and became healthier in the countryside. Their diets in the cities had consisted of beer and chips – this diet changed.
Some children never saw their parents again, as their parents had been killed in bombing.	Some children loved their lives in the country. They learned new skills there. Some even chose to stay after the war.
Children were lined up and local people would choose the one they wanted. Some would not be chosen, and had to be taken around to people's houses.	The host families received a weekly payment for taking in children, which they would usually spend looking after the evacuee child.
Houses were inspected and assessed for safety. Any spare rooms were allocated as rooms for evacuees.	Some parents abandoned their children and didn't want them back after the war.
Many mothers brought their children home when it seemed clear that the danger of bombing had been exaggerated. By January 1940 about 60% of all evacuees had returned to their home.	Some children were scared by all the new changes and didn't settle in with the host families.
Some children discovered toothpaste for the first time.	
Some children were very rough and swore a lot which upset their hosts.	As few as 15% of the children were evacuated from some urban areas. The government refused to spend large sums on preparation for evacuation.
Over 60% of children were evacuated in Manchester, Belfast and Liverpool.	The government had to persuade some parents to send their children back to the countryside when bombing of British cities started in 1941.

Big Question 5

What was it like to be a young person in Nazi Germany?

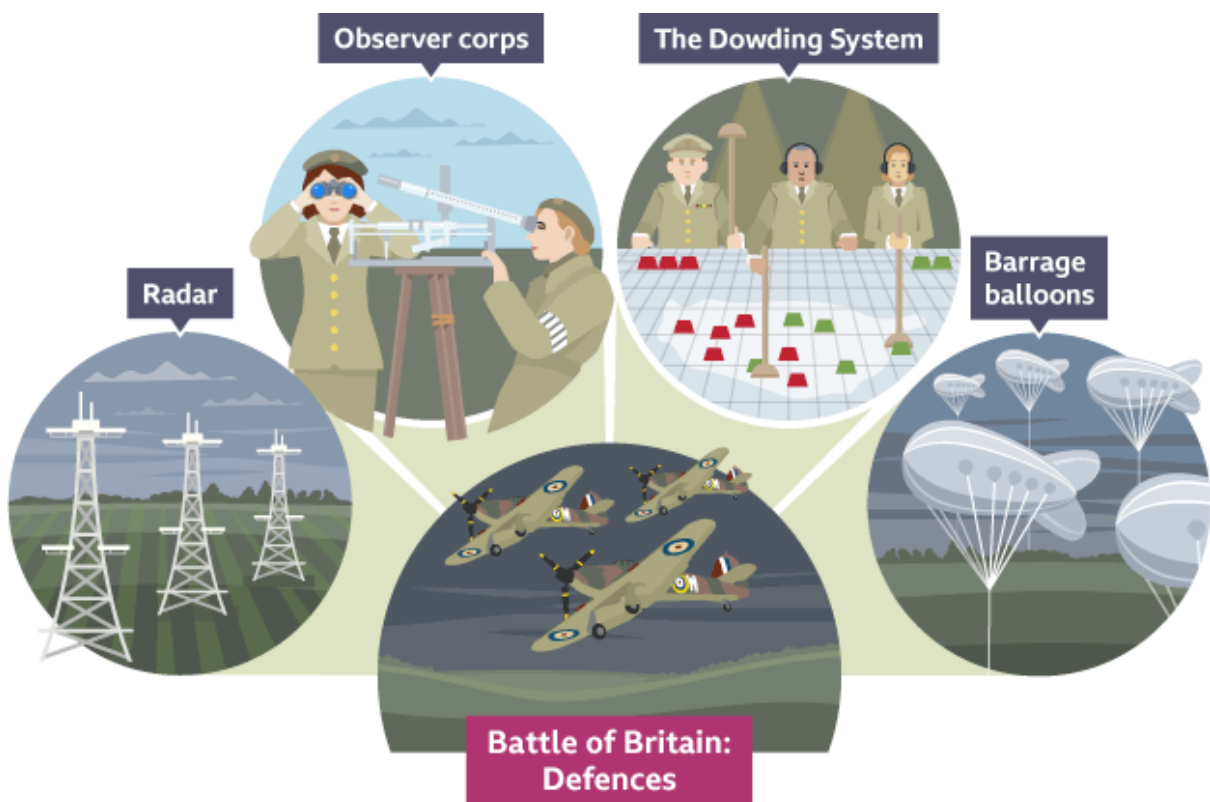


Members had to swear an oath of loyalty to the Führer.	There were regular camping and hiking expeditions.	The members had to attend residential courses where they learnt about Nazi ideas.
By 1938, 1.2 million boys in the Hitler Youth were being trained in small-arms shooting.	Members practised skills useful to troops such as map-reading and signalling.	The Hitler Youth also ran regional and national sports competitions.
Hitler Youth was designed to mould young people's characters. Activities stressed the need for comradeship and loyalty, competition and ruthlessness.	The Hitler Youth Leader, Baldur von Schirach, set out a schedule of lessons for every year group of the Hitler Youth to learn. Lesson titles included 'German Heroes', 'Adolf Hitler and his fellow-fighters' and 'the evil of the Jews'.	There were separate military decisions of the Hitler Youth for specialist training, including naval training.
Hitler Youth members had to report anyone, even teachers and parents, who were disloyal to the Nazis.	Boys entering the Jungvolk, aged 10, would swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler. They would be drilled by SA instructors, having to undergo harsh activities if they disobeyed or made errors.	

Big Question 6

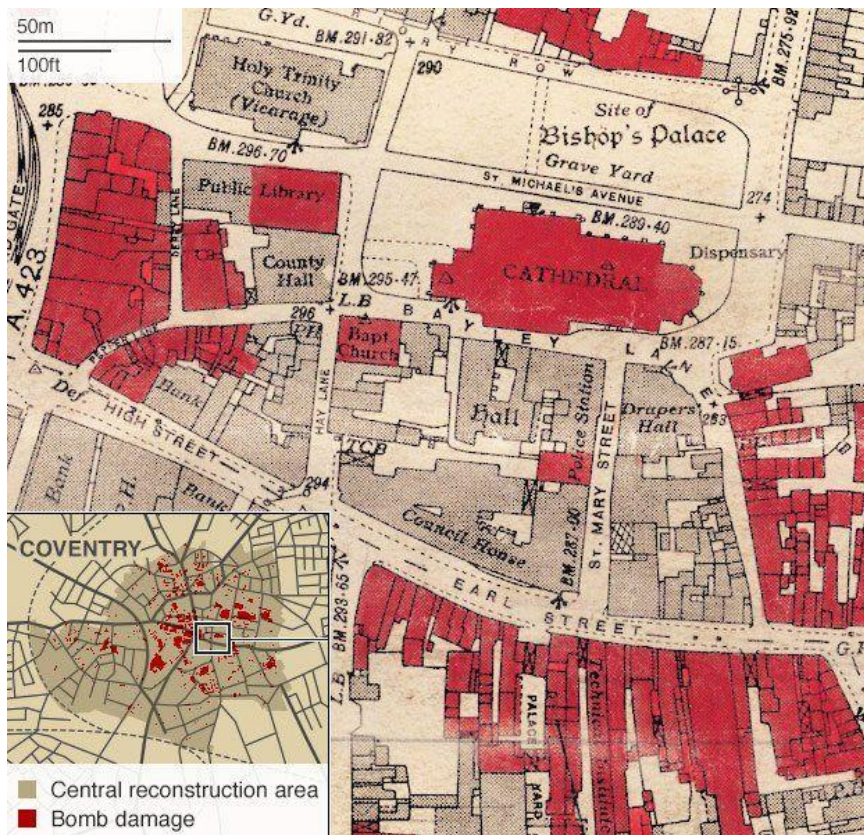
Was the Battle of Britain a turning point?

The British fighter planes (the Hurricane and Spitfire) were faster and could move better than the German planes.	The German planes could only fly for 30 minutes at a time.
The German planes flew in groups which made them easy targets.	There were fewer pilots in Britain, but between landing and taking off again, they only had short periods of rest while the planes were refuelled.
1644 German pilots were killed, but only 446 RAF pilots were killed in 1940.	The Germans lost 1652 planes , the RAF only lost 1085 .
Britain produced an average of 563 new planes each month between July and September 1940.	Hitler's bombing of factories didn't work, and British factories and industry carried on producing war materials.
Britain had radar . This meant the British knew where the Germans would be attacking and could meet them and stop them.	Bad weather and the skill of the RAF pilots made many of the Luftwaffe's raids unsuccessful.



Big Question 7

What was the impact of the Blitz on Coventry?



After the London Blitz, the RAF bombed German cities too. Civilians on both sides were now under attack. On 8 November 1940, the RAF bombed Munich. The Luftwaffe bombed Coventry in retaliation, in a raid so destructive that a new word came into use: 'coventration' – wiping something out completely.

Coventry was a city with a population of around 280,000. It was important for the war effort because

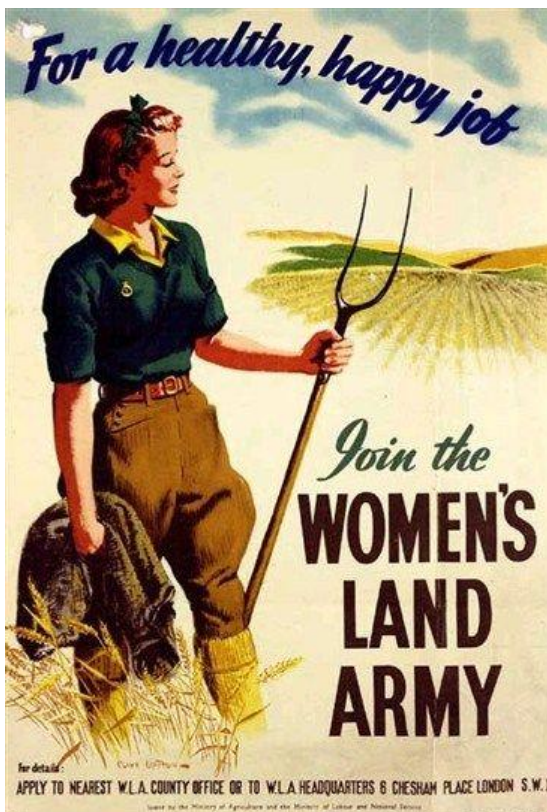
of its factories which made cars, bicycles, aircraft engines and munitions. Hitler turned his attention to Coventry in order to destroy Coventry's munitions factories (physical damage) and to damage the morale of the British people (psychological damage).

The bombing began at 7:20pm on 14 November. Bombs were dropped in the city centre to start fires to guide later bombers. Hours later, the city was burning so fiercely that it was visible from 150 miles away. The bombing went on all night – 500 bombers dropped around 30,000 projectiles, including bombs, landmines and incendiaries, which were bombs that started fires. The 'all-clear' did not go until 6:15am the next morning. Estimates of those killed range from 380 to 554 and there were thousands of injuries.

Over 40,000 homes were damaged, as well as factories, businesses and the city's cathedral. The Luftwaffe returned to Coventry forty times, the last raid being in August 1942.

Big Question 8

How did the Second World War change the role of women?



Glossary

Air raid shelter	Somewhere built, usually underground, where people can go to be safer from bombing.
Allied Powers	USA, USSR, Britain and others fighting Germany during World War Two.
Anti-Semitism	Prejudice or discrimination against Jewish people.
Artillery	Large guns or cannon, that fire over long distances.
Axis Powers	Alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan in World War Two.
Battle of Britain	Campaign in 1940 to prevent German invasion of Britain that involved the RAF, Royal Navy and Army.
Blitz	The name given to the bombing of British cities by the German air force from 7 September 1940 to May 1941.
Blitzkrieg	The German for “lightning war”. A swift, sudden military attack using bomber aircraft to support fast moving tanks and motor vehicles.
British Expeditionary Force (BEF)	British forces which fought against the Germans in France in 1940.
Censorship	Stopping people from passing on certain information – in newspapers, radio broadcasts, private letters and even conversations.
Communism	Belief in a society that exists without different social classes and in which everyone is equal and all property is owned by the people.
Concentration camp	A prison camp where Jews and others were held in captivity and worked to death.
Conscription	Making people join the armed forces or do war work.
D-Day	Allied invasion of German held France in June 1944.
Death camp	Also can an extermination camp, where Jews and others were systematically killed, usually by poison gas.
Dunkirk	Seaport in Northern France and site of the evacuation of British forces from 29 May – 4 June 1940.
Dynamo	Codename for the evacuation of British and French forces from Dunkirk in 1940.

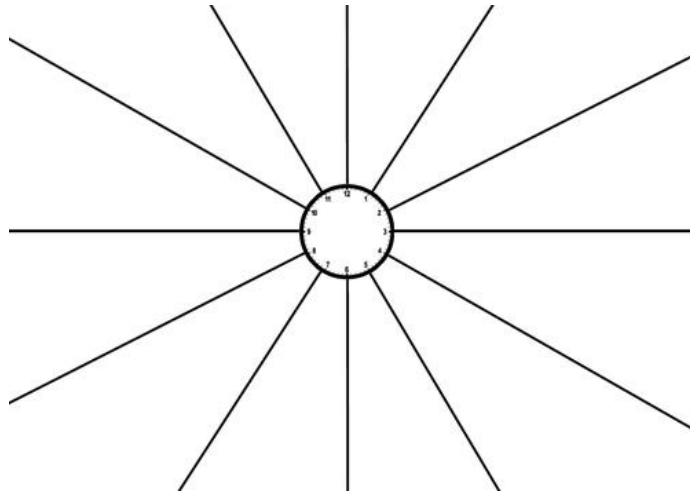
Evacuate	To evacuate a place is to clear people out of it.
Evacuee	Someone who is evacuated – sent away from a dangerous place.
Genocide	The deliberate destruction of a racial, religious, political, or ethnic group.
Ghetto	A poor section of a city that is inhabited by people mainly of the same race, religion, or social background, often because of discrimination.
Labour camp	A camp using slave labour, mostly Jews and prisoners of war, to produce materials for the German war effort.
Lebensraum	German word meaning “living space”, land in eastern Europe that Hitler wished to see inhabited by Germans.
Luftwaffe	German Air Force.
Messerschmitt	Type of German aircraft.
Nazi	A member of the German political party led by Adolf Hitler. The word is an abbreviation of the full name of the party, Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National Socialist German Workers’ Party).
Pearl Harbor	Main US naval base, attacked by Japanese forces in December 1941.
Propaganda	False or misleading information given out to spread a certain point of view.
Radar	Short for Radio Detection And Ranging, a way of detecting objects a long way away in the dark or fog by bouncing radio waves off them and picking up a picture of their shape.
Rationing	Restricting how much of something people can have.
Red Army	Army of the Soviet Union.
Sealion	Codename for the planned invasion of Britain by German forces in 1940-41.
Special Operations Executive (SOE)	Special unit formed by the British to carry out attacks on German occupied Europe in World War Two.
Spitfire	British fighter plane.
Treaty	A formal agreement between two or more countries.
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the Soviet Union, which existed from 1922-91; commonly known as Russia.

How do I revise for end of topic assessments?

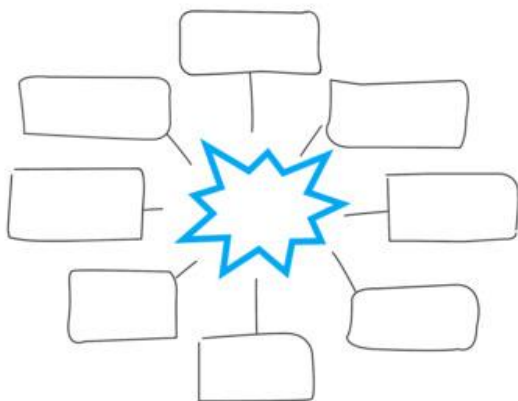


Flashcards – Use flashcards to practice key dates, terms and people. You could write a key date on one side, and turn it over and put the event. Alternatively, you could do match-ups, where a key person is written/drawn and then on another card what they have done is written down. You could then match-up the cards. Flashcards are also great for writing out knowledge questions on one side, and writing the answer on the other side.

Revision clocks –



Take an A3/A4 bit of paper and divide it into 12 sections. In each section write a big question and write 3 or 4 bullet points of the key knowledge for that question in the clock. Make your clocks colourful and highlight key words/dates/people.



Mind-maps – Write a topic in the middle and have 5-6 branches coming off around it with the key ideas. For example, you could have a mind-map on the Battle of Hastings, and your branches could include the key events, information about the different fighting techniques and the reasons why William won.

Brain dump – Get a blank piece of paper, and write down everything you know about the topic being studied. Give yourself 4-5 minutes to do this. When the time is up, in a different coloured pen, use your workbook and knowledge organiser to fill in any missing details.

Homework 1 – Blitzkrieg and Dunkirk

The German army was sweeping through Europe. Their tactics were known as 'Blitzkrieg', which means 'lightning war'. They quickly overwhelmed the defences and armed forces of countries they invaded.

On 10 May 1940, the German army entered France. They swept through the country, capturing Paris on 14 June. The British Expeditionary Force, which had been sent to France to try and stop the German invasion, had to retreat. They reached the English Channel and waited on beaches at Dunkirk to be rescued.

Britain had soldiers fighting from many different countries in its empire. For instance, Major Mohammad Akbar Khan, an Indian soldier, was in charge of 300 Indian soldiers and 23 British troops. He led them through Dunkirk's heavily bombed harbour.

Britain organised a huge evacuation effort, sending over a whole range of naval and civilian boats to pick up stranded soldiers. Dutch, Belgian, French and Norwegian ships were also involved in the operation. The evacuation was considered to be a success, with 340,000 French and British soldiers brought back to England in one week. However, there were also big losses: over 68,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or unaccounted for. Over 400 tanks, six destroyers and 145 aircraft were also lost. These losses were hugely damaging to the war effort.

The evacuation of Dunkirk also meant Britain was left to fight against Germany without France, one of its key allies. Churchill privately called Dunkirk 'a colossal military disaster', which showed his concern about the loss of men and equipment.

The German air force, the Luftwaffe, fought against the British RAF from July to October 1940, in the Battle of Britain. The RAF were victorious, meaning Germany had to change their tactics to try and invade Britain.

Questions

- 1) What does 'Blitzkrieg' translate to?
- 2) On what date did Germany capture Paris?
- 3) On what beaches did British soldiers wait to be rescued?
- 4) Name one country where volunteer soldiers were from that served in the British army.
- 5) How many French and British soldiers were rescued in the evacuation?

- 6) Name one negative of the evacuation.
- 7) What aerial battle followed the evacuation of Dunkirk?
- 8) Who won this battle?

Homework 2 – Battle of Britain

Task – Identify whether the statements below are true or false. For the false statements, correct these in the box to the right of the statement.

Statement	True or false	Corrected statement
The Battle of Britain was codenamed 'Operation Dynamo'.		
The Battle of Britain took place in the summer of 1940.		
The RAF flew Messerschmitt planes during the battle.		
The Germans had radar which meant they could see where the British were during the battle.		
The British lost less planes than the Germans.		
The Battle of Britain was Hitler's first real set-back.		

Homework 3 – Revision

Task – Complete a revision activity to revise for your end of unit assessment. Use page 13 of the knowledge organiser to give you some ideas of how you could revise.

Wider Reading/Resources

The Second World War by Antony Beevor

The Blitz: The British Under Attack by Juliet Gardiner

The Battle of Britain by James Holland

Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

World War Two: A Short History by Norman Stone

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden

The Extraordinary Life of Alan Turing by Michael Lee Richardson and Freda Chiu

The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier

Utterly Unbelievable: WWII in Facts by Adam Frost

