

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

History A (The Making of the Modern World)

Unit 3: Modern World Source Enquiry

Option 3B: War and the transformation of British society, c1931–51

Sample Assessment Material for 2013
Sources Booklet

Paper Reference

5HA03/3B

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Historical Enquiry: The impact of the Blitz

Source A: From a broadcast on Berlin Radio, 16 November 1940, about the German air raid on Coventry.

More than 500 planes took part in the greatest attack in the history of aerial warfare. About 500 tonnes of high-explosive bombs and 30,000 incendiary bombs were dropped. In a short time all large and small factories were set on fire and the *Luftwaffe* heavy calibre bombs caused extensive damage to other targets of military importance.

Source B: From an article published in a British newspaper, the *Daily Herald*, 16 November 1940. This article is a representation of the bombing of Coventry.

Coventry

The bombing of Coventry was as foul a deed as Hitler ever ordered. His airmen were instructed: 'Don't worry if you cannot reach your industrial targets. Bomb and burn the city. Never mind if you hit factories. Hit houses. Have no scruples about military objectives. Kill men, kill women, kill children. Destroy! Destroy! Destroy!'

Heil Hitler! Heil bloodshed! Heil pain!

Source C: Extracts from the diary of Joseph Goebbels, the German Minister of Propaganda in 1940.

11 October

We shall be able to force Britain to her knees during the next few weeks.

23 October

We shall battle on non-stop to destroy their last hope.

1 November

Hitler, our Führer, intends to keep hammering the British until they break.

5 December

Things must continue until Britain falls to her knees and begs for peace.

Source D: A photograph taken in the autumn of 1940 and published in a national newspaper. It shows a family from London with what is left of their Anderson shelter.



Source E: From the diary of Harold Nicolson, a government official in the Ministry of Information, 17 September 1940.

Everybody is worried about the feeling in the East End of London, where there is much bitterness. It is said that even the King and Queen were booed the other day when they visited the destroyed areas. One leading member of the government says that if the Germans had the sense to bomb only the East End of London and not the area west of London Bridge, there might be a revolution in the country.

Source F is on page 4.

Source F: From a modern world history book, published in 1996.

The impact of the Blitz (1940–41) should not be underestimated. In the Blitz, Britain suffered more civilian than military casualties. 30,000 people were killed in the raids and a great number of houses and buildings destroyed. Major cities and towns such as London, Coventry, Plymouth, Manchester and Liverpool suffered considerable damage. At the same time, people suffered from the stresses brought about by lack of sleep and nervous strain and, in some heavily bombed towns and cities civilian morale was badly affected.

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