

Remembrance Day: A Historical Assessment

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Remembrance Day, its historical origins, and why we commemorate the service and sacrifice of those in conflict.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate terminology.

Remembrance Day is held on 11 November each year. It marks the day the fighting stopped in the First World War in 1918. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, many people across the country observe a two-minute silence to reflect on those who lost their lives in wars and conflicts. The red poppy has become the symbol of this day, inspired by the flowers that grew in the fields of Flanders after the battles had finished.

Word bank: Armistice · Commemoration · Sacrifice · Conflict · Memorial · Poppy · 1918 · Trench · Gratitude

1. Identify the specific date and time that the Armistice was signed in 1918, and explain why this moment is significant for our two-minute silence. (3 marks)

2. Why did the red poppy become the chosen symbol of Remembrance? Reference the landscape of the First World War in your answer. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the ways a local war memorial is used today versus how the families of soldiers might have felt during the war years. (4 marks)

4. Explain why it is important for historians to study primary sources, such as letters or diaries from soldiers, when learning about the history of Remembrance. (3 marks)

5. Justify why we continue to observe Remembrance Day over one hundred years after the end of the First World War. What is the benefit to our society today? (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, visiting a museum of history. Write a diary entry (5 marks) describing the importance of keeping these memories alive. Consider the theme of 'sacrifice' and the impact of conflict on future generations. (5 marks)

7. What might happen if we stopped teaching future generations about the events of the World Wars? Provide two reasons for your opinion. (5 marks)

Draw: Sketch a memorial that you might find in a local village or town square. Include symbolic elements that represent peace and reflection.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out about a local person from your town or city who served in a conflict. Write a short paragraph explaining how you would honour their memory if you were designing a new memorial plaque.