

Remembrance Day: A Historical Assessment

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of the historical significance of Remembrance Day, the symbolism of the poppy, and the importance of commemorating those who served in the World Wars.

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

Remembrance Day is held on 11 November each year. It marks the day the First World War ended in 1918. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the Armistice was signed, ending the fighting. Since then, people have gathered at war memorials to remember those who lost their lives in service to their country. The red poppy, which grew in the churned-up earth of the battlefields, has become the enduring symbol of this period of history.

Word bank: Armistice · Commemoration · Sacrifice · Symbolism · Conflict · Trench · Legacy · Reflection

1. Identify the specific date and time that the Armistice was signed in 1918. Explain why this timing is significant to our modern commemorations. (2 marks)

2. Why did the red poppy become the chosen symbol for Remembrance Day? Refer to the conditions of the battlefields in your answer. (2 marks)

3. Ellie the elephant is studying historical artefacts. She finds a diary from a soldier in the trenches. Explain why primary sources like diaries are essential for historians trying to understand the lives of those who served. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how we commemorate Remembrance Day in the UK today with how it might have been observed in the years immediately following 1918. (4 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for younger generations to continue observing the two-minute silence, even though the events occurred over a century ago. (4 marks)

6. What might happen to our collective historical memory if we stopped teaching about the World Wars in schools? Discuss the consequences for future society. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative scene at a local war memorial. Include a wreath of poppies and label two items that you would expect to see during a formal Remembrance service.



Extension challenge: Write a short, emotive poem (in the style of Leo the Lion) reflecting on the concept of 'peace' versus 'conflict'. Use at least four words from the word bank. Total: /25