

Wartime Echoes: A Historical Diary Entry

Learning objective: To empathise with the experiences of children during the Second World War and demonstrate an understanding of historical events such as evacuation, rationing, or the Blitz.

Imagine you are living in Britain during the 1940s. Use this template to draft a diary entry from the perspective of someone your age. Think about how the war impacted daily life, food, school, and family routines. Use the word bank to help you include historical vocabulary in your writing.

Word bank: Evacuation · Rationing · Anderson shelter · Blackout · Home Front · Identity card · Air raid siren · Gas mask

1. Setting the Scene: Describe where you are writing from (e.g., a city during an air raid or the countryside after being evacuated) and how you feel. (3 marks)

2. Daily Life: Explain how rationing has changed the meals your family eats or how you manage with limited supplies. (3 marks)

3. The Blackout: Describe the precautions taken to keep your home hidden at night and explain why these measures were essential for safety. (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: How does your daily life in the 1940s differ from your life today? Justify your answer using specific examples. (4 marks)

5. Explain why: Why was the government's policy of evacuation considered necessary, and what emotional impact might this have had on families? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if: Imagine a scenario where a character forgets to carry their gas mask or fails to follow blackout regulations. What are the potential consequences? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a reflective paragraph explaining how the 'Home Front' relied on the collective effort of civilians. Justify why the role of women and children was considered vital to the success of the war effort.