

Ellie's Historical Enquiry: Life on the Home Front during WWII

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of the Second World War on civilian life in Britain and construct a balanced historical account.

Use this scaffold to structure your report. Ellie the elephant has gathered facts about the Home Front; use the word bank to connect your ideas and ensure your arguments are justified with evidence.

The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 transformed the daily lives of British citizens, turning every town and village into a front line of survival and contribution.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · in contrast · rationing · evacuation · significantly · nevertheless · prioritising · propaganda · resilience

1. The Necessity of Rationing: Explain why the government introduced rationing and how it influenced the daily diet of families. Start by saying: 'Rationing was implemented primarily because...' (3 marks)

2. The Evacuation Experience: Compare and contrast the experiences of children sent to the countryside with those who remained in cities. Start by saying: 'While urban children faced the threat of air raids, those evacuated to the countryside...' (4 marks)

3. The Role of Women: Justify the view that the war effort relied heavily on the changing roles of women in the workforce. Start by saying: 'The contribution of women was vital because...' (3 marks)

4. Propaganda and Morale: What might happen if the government had not used posters and radio broadcasts to encourage the public? Start by saying: 'If the government had failed to maintain morale, it is likely that...' (3 marks)

5. Historical Impact: Evaluate the long-term social changes that emerged from the hardships of the war years. Start by saying: 'Although the war brought immense struggle, it also led to...' (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. Start by saying: 'In conclusion, the Home Front was a period defined by...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a historian discovering a time capsule from 1942. Write a diary entry from the perspective of a child living through the Blitz, justifying why you chose to include specific items (such as a gas mask box or a ration book) in the capsule to explain your life to future generations.