

**Year 9 Level Assessment  
World War One**

**Level 3: Can you work things out from sources?**

1. **Look at Source A.** According to Source A, how did Germany respond to Britain's request that Germany respects Belgian neutrality? Explain your answer.

*Source A*

Owing to the summary rejection by the German Government of the request made by (Britain) for the ... the neutrality of Belgium (to) be respected...

His Majesty's government have declared to the German Government that a state of war exists...

From: British Foreign Office Statement, 12.10am, August 5<sup>th</sup> 1914.

**Level 4: Can you put together information from different sources**

2. **Look at Sources B and C.** What do we learn about the reasons why men volunteered to fight in 1914 from these two sources?

*Source B*

We had been brought up to believe that Britain was the best country in the world and we wanted to defend her. ...we wanted to show the Germans what we could do.

From: Private George Morgan, 1st Bradford Pals, interviewed after the war

*Source C*

I was quite empty-headed and bored to tears with shop life. The chaps round about started to go, so I said, 'I'm going'. Well it was gonna be a change. Most volunteers went to get away from their environment.

The view of a recruit on why he joined up to fight in 1914.

**Level 5: Can you say how useful a Source is when trying to answer a particular question?**

3. **Look at Source D.** How useful is this Source for someone studying what life was like for soldiers in the Trenches? Explain your answer.
4. **Look at Source A.** How useful is this Source for someone trying to find out about the causes of World War One? Explain your answer.

*Source D*

I sat on the latrine box and patiently counted 103 lice on my clothes and body. God how I hate the little lobsters.

From: A Abraham, a soldier on the Western Front.

**Level 6: Can you compare how useful certain Sources are when trying to answer a particular question?**

5. **Look at Sources E, F and G.** If you wanted to find out what a German gas attack was like for British troops, which Source would be more useful?

**Source E**

Those nearer still to the trenches north of Ypres saw two curious wraiths of greenish-yellow fog creep forward, spread until they became one and then, moving forward, change to a blue-white mist. ...Soon, officers behind the British front ... were startled to see a torrent of terrified humanity pouring backward.

From: *History of the First World War*, by Basil Liddell-Hart, 1970.

**Source F**

Plainly something terrible was happening. What was it? Officers, and Staff officers too, stood gazing at the scene, awe-struck and dumbfounded; for in the northerly breeze there cam a pungent nauseating smell that tickled the throat and made our eyes smart. One man came stumbling through our lines. An officer ...(said) 'What's the matter, you ...lot of cowards?'

From: Anthony R Hossack, *Queen Victoria Rifles*, 1915.

**Source G**

A knife pain in the lungs and the coughing up of a greenish froth of the stomach and the lungs, finally resulting in death.

From: Lance Sergeant Elmer Cotton, 1915

**Level 7: Can you decide how reliable and truthful a Source is by looking at when, how and where it was produced?**

6. **Look at Source H.** How reliable is this Source as a description of what German soldiers were like during World War One?

**Source H**

British war correspondents in Belgium have seen little murdered children with roasted feet. The tiny mites were hung over a fire before they were slain. This was done by German troops – men with children of their own at home...

From: *The War Illustrated*, 1914. A British wartime magazine.