

Year 9
World War One

Remember: write all your answers in **full sentences**.



1. **Look at Source A below.** Did the British Expeditionary Force take more horses or more guns to France with them?
2. What do you think might have been more useful and why?
3. What was the heaviest thing that soldiers had to carry with them?

Source A – From Fiona Reynoldson, *War Beyond Britain*, 1987.

- **The British Expeditionary Force was made up of 90,000 soldiers, 15,000 horses and 315 guns. They were loaded aboard ships for France.**
- **Each soldier carried: 5.6kg clothing; 7.6kg rifle and ammunition; 1.2kg trench tools; 3.7kg webbing; 4.4kg pack; 2.5kg rations and water.**

4. **Look at Source B below.** Why was summer in the trenches worse than winter or spring?
5. What problems might the weather and conditions in autumn and spring cause the fighting soldiers?

Source B – From An Author, ‘No Man’s Land’, 2000.

In the winter snow and ice froze the ground whilst in the spring and autumn the rain turned the area into a vast sea of mud. Summer brought other discomforts such as the rats, flies, lice, and the inevitable diseases.

6. **Look at Sources C and D below.** Find one reason from each Source why men volunteered to join the army in 1914.
7. Are the reasons that these two men give the same? Explain your answer.

Source C - From: Private George Morgan, 1st Bradford Pals, 1919

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.

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

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 every day lives.

8. **Look at Sources E, F and G below.** From these three Sources, write a sentence about at least three things that happened in a gas attack.

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

... two strange clouds of greenish-yellow fog creep forward, spread until they became one and then change to a blue-white mist.

Source F - From: Anthony R Hossack, a soldier, 1915.

...in the northerly breeze there was a horrible sickening smell that tickled the throat and made our eyes sting. One man came limping through our lines...

Source G - From: Elmer Cotton, a soldier, 1915

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

9. **Look at Source H.** Would this source be useful in telling an Historian about what life was like in the trenches?
10. **Look at Source I below.** What useful things does this tell an Historian about soldiers' experiences in the trenches?
11. **Look back to Source G above.** Would this source be useful for an Historian who wanted to know what it was like for soldiers who were gassed?

Source H - From: A Abraham, a soldier on the Western Front, 1915.

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

Source I - From Fritz Kreisler, *Four Weeks in the Trenches*, 1914.

A soldier of my unit, while digging in the trench, suddenly leaned back, began to cough like an old man, a little blood ran from his lips, and he crumpled in a heap and lay quite still....I saw many men die afterwards, some suffering horribly, but I don't think any death affected me quite so much as that of this first victim in my unit.

The End