

HISTORY

9769/72

Paper 5k Special Subject: Winston Churchill, 1914–1946

May/June 2014

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Answer the following question.

Nominated topic: War leadership, 1940–1944

- 1** Study all the following documents and answer the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *The wife of a schoolteacher recalls the speech made by Churchill in the House of Commons on 4 June 1940 on the occasion of the Allied withdrawal from Dunkirk.*

That evening we heard the broadcast of the speech Churchill had delivered earlier in the day. 'We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender.' Churchill was putting into words what the majority of us instinctively assumed – that, being British, we could not be defeated. Our so-called allies had crumbled, but what could one expect of bloody foreigners, he implied, and made Hitler into a joke without ever playing down the 'blood, toil, tears and sweat' that would face us. Those speeches and the propaganda made out of Dunkirk certainly boosted our morale and impressed the rest of the free world.

Jean Crossley, diary entry, June 1940.

- B** *Churchill's personal physician recalls his observations on Churchill at the beginning of his wartime Prime Ministership.*

From the time he marched his toy soldiers in the nursery he had loved war and excitement. To him war was an end in itself, rather than a means to an end. It fascinated him. And when he found himself Prime Minister, and it was his duty to conduct a vast conflict nearly single-handed, it seemed almost too good to be true. The job was made for him. The burden of a Prime Minister is formidable in peace; in war it may well crush a man in the prime of life. Winston, in reckless delight, doubled the weight he had to carry by his approach to the duties of the office. His appetite for work was voracious.

Lord Moran, *Churchill: the Struggle for Survival, 1940–65*, published in 1966.

- C** *At a critical stage of the War, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff makes a series of judgements on Churchill's leadership.*

The Quebec Conference has left me absolutely exhausted. Winston made matters almost impossible. He has an unfortunate trick of picking up some isolated operation, and without ever really having it looked into, setting his heart on it. He becomes more and more set on the operation, brushing everything aside, and, when Planners prove the operation to be impossible, he then appoints new Planners. His is a wonderful character, the most marvellous qualities and superhuman genius mixed with an astonishing lack of vision at times, and impetuosity. Perhaps the most remarkable failing of his is that he can never see a whole strategical problem at once. His gaze always settles on some definite part of the canvas and the rest of the picture is lost. It is difficult to make him realise the influence of one theatre of war against another. He is quite the most difficult man to work with that I have ever met, but I would not have missed the chance of working with him for anything on earth.

Field Marshall Viscount Alanbrooke, diary entry, 30 August 1943.

- D** *A distinguished journalist records a conversation with Clement Attlee, Churchill's wartime Deputy Prime Minister.*

Attlee: Winston was the driving force, a great War Minister. No one else could have done the job he did. But there was quite a lot of discussion at the Defence Committee. We surveyed the whole strategic field.

Williams: Was there much disagreement?

Attlee: Occasionally, yes.

Williams: But Churchill had his way?

Attlee: Pretty often. But there were quite a lot of occasions when he didn't. He'd get some idea he wanted to press, and after we had considered it the rest of us would have to tell him there was no value in it. But you needed someone to prod the Chiefs of Staff. Winston was sometimes an awful nuisance but he always accepted the verdict of the Chiefs of Staff. Staff and the Joint Planning Staff were in almost constant session.

Francis Williams, *A Prime Minister Remembers*, 1961.

- E** *A modern historian examines Churchill's qualities and failings.*

The novelty that was the most effective of all, was the extraordinary drive and dynamism Churchill brought to the centre of affairs. His military experience was rather limited. Again and again, the Chiefs of Staff and other military men close to him observed that he rarely gave thought to the time-taking logistical arrangements that must support well-planned operations. He became irritable and impatient when told that things could not be done as quickly as he desired. He actually thought the generals would appreciate the interest he showed in them. On the whole they didn't. Churchill did not like criticism. His reception of it, however, was discriminating. He distinguished between the criticisms of those who were sincerely trying to help Britain win the war and the criticisms of those who, he thought, weren't. It is undeniable that he had favourites and unfavourites. Churchill could also get rid of commanders. No account of Churchill's war machinery can be complete without specifying the parts of it he invented and installed. Of these the Ministry of Defence was the most important. Churchill created new ministries (including those of Aircraft Production, Production, Fuel and Power, and Reconstruction). Bletchley Park, the Government Code and Cypher School, was not one of Churchill's creations, having been located at Bletchley for two years before he became Prime Minister. Churchill instantly adopted it and sheltered it under his wing.

Geoffrey Best, *Churchill and War*, 2005.

- (a)** How far does Document D corroborate the impression given in Document C concerning Churchill's relationships with his wartime colleagues? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that Churchill's effectiveness as a wartime leader has been overestimated?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Answer one of the following questions. *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2 Assess Churchill's achievements in the First World War. [30]
- 3 How well justified was Churchill's stance on rearmament in the 1930s? [30]
- 4 Explain Churchill's aims for the settlement of post-war Europe and estimate his success. [30]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

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Question 1 Document B	© Carlo D'Este; <i>Warlord: A Life Of Winston Churchill As War Leader</i> ; Allen Lane; 2008.
Question 1 Document C	© Arthur Bryant; <i>The Turn of the Tide</i> ; Collins; 1958.
Question 1 Document D	© Geoffrey Best; <i>Churchill and War</i> ; Hambledon; 2005.
Question 1 Document E	© Geoffrey Best; <i>Churchill and War</i> ; Hambledon; 2005.

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