

The Big Question:

HOW DID THE **EXPERIENCE OF WAR** AFFECT CIVILIANS IN BRITAIN 1914-18?

In this task you will have to use your imagination a little. The year is 1939 and you are an adviser to the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. The situation is serious, and it looks as though war with Germany is very likely. The Prime Minister wants to make some plans about how to run the country if war breaks out. He has many advisers looking at many different issues.

Your job is to look back at some of the measures that were taken in the First World War. The Prime Minister will then decide whether those measures should be used again.

You have four areas to look at:

- DORA
- Recruitment
- Shortages and rationing
- The workers

For each area you must look at:

- The actions taken by the government
- How these actions affected people
- How people reacted to government actions

You could add an optional section on whether you think the measure would be a good measure to use again.

You may be asked to work in pairs or small groups by your teacher, so you personally may only need to look at one of these areas.

Whichever way you work, the Prime Minister needs to see a summary of your findings. This could be as written report, a presentation or a table like the one suggested online.

Remember that the Prime Minister does not want your guesses or assumptions. Support everything you say with evidence – examples, facts and figures, and references to sources.