
GCSE

History B

91453 The British People in War

Controlled Assessment Sources (Specimen Only)

9145

Version: 1.0

Specimen for June 2015 examinations

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Source A An interpretation of the effects of rationing during the First World War.

Mrs Maud Marples who had lived through the war as a newly married mother, was interviewed many years later as part of a project to record oral history started in the 1960s.

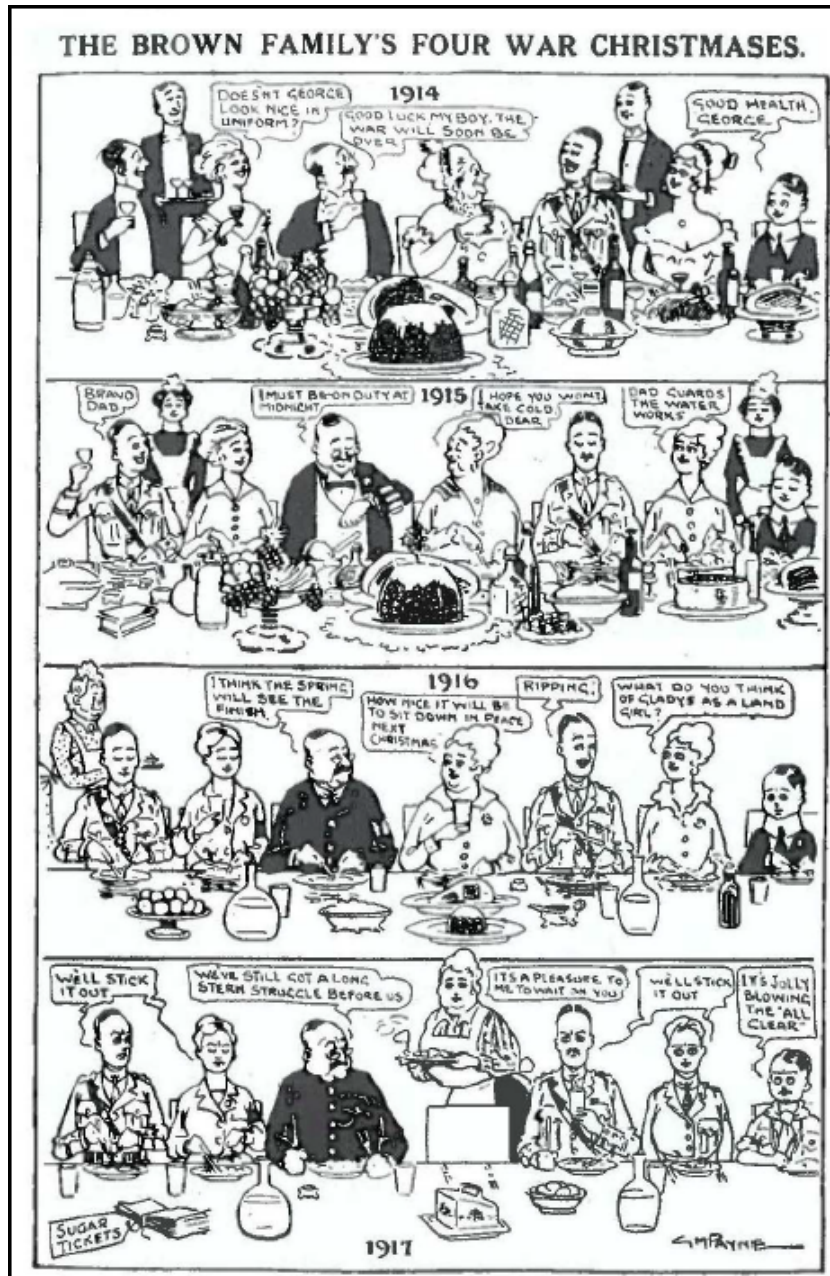
Mrs Maud Marples who had lived through the war as a newly married mother, was interviewed many years later as part of a project to record oral history started in the 1960s.

We knew certain things seemed to be in short supply and a little bit of news got through about German submarines sinking our food ships. Prices always seemed to be going up and I couldn't always get hold of sugar and butter for baking. Our corner shop always seemed to close in an afternoon when they ran out.

But nobody seemed to do anything about it. All we were told was to eat less and don't waste food. Some better off people in the big houses on the other side of town never seemed to go short; stories in the papers went on about people hoarding food. Then, after having to put up with this for years, the government decided to start rationing. 'Great' we all thought – that would be fairer. Equal shares for everyone. But it didn't seem to happen very quickly. Even then it was really only meat, butter and cheese. Posters told us that you could be fined if you broke the rules.

All I know was that that the shops still looked empty to me. Typical. They didn't do enough and by then the war had ended anyway.

Source B A British cartoon called *The Brown Family's Four Christmases*, published in 1917.



Source C An information leaflet issued by the Ministry of Food in November 1939. It provides instructions on how the system of rationing will operate.

MINISTRY OF FOOD

REGISTRATION

for

BACON & HAM • BUTTER • SUGAR

All ration books have now been posted, and all members of the public should register with their shopkeepers for Bacon & Ham, Butter and Sugar before

Thursday, 23rd November

Registration is a necessary measure to ensure adequate supplies and fair distribution. It is essential to the smooth working of food distribution in war-time.

SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

- 1 Put your name and address at the bottom of the Bacon & Ham, Butter and Sugar page of your Ration Book NOW.
- 2 Write on page 11 (The inside cover of your Ration Book) the name and address of your shopkeeper for each of the three books—Bacon, Butter and Sugar.
- 3 Take your Ration Book to your shopkeeper for Bacon & Ham, Butter and Sugar.
- 4 Let the shopkeepers write their names and addresses on the appropriate counter-foils and cut them out.
- 5 The numbered coupons should not be cut out yet. This will be done by the shopkeepers when rationing begins.
- 6 Check the pages for Bacon & Ham, Butter and Sugar are in the order. You should not register for any other food.
- 7 Although the page for Butter includes Margarine ignore this, as Margarine is not being rationed.
- 8 Sugar is not being rationed at present, but registration is necessary.
- 9 If you change your address, take your Ration Book to the Local Food Officer in your new district.
- 10 Don't forget that you are free to choose your own shopkeeper.

A SHOPKEEPER WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO GET SUPPLIES FOR HIS REGISTERED CUSTOMERS

REGISTER NOW

AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, 61, WESTMINSTER HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. 4

Source D From a foreword in a modern book called *Eating for Victory*.

The book celebrates the recipes of the Second World War.

During the war, although there were shortages, people generally had a good diet. When the war ended, it was found that the average food intake was much higher than when it began. This was mostly because many poor people had been too poor to feed themselves properly, but with virtually no unemployment and the rationing system, with its fixed prices, they ate better than in the past. As a whole the population was slimmer and healthier than it is today; people ate less fat and sugar, less meat and many more vegetables.

Source E Children's toys and games dating from the First World War.



Source F Adapted from an interview with Reginald Haine who recalled enlisting in the First World War.

He was interviewed many years after the war and his views were published in a book about the experience of soldiers in the trenches.

A friend of mine phoned me and said, 'What are you to do about the war?' I hadn't thought anything about it.
He said, 'I've joined my brother's regiment, the Honourable Artillery Company. If you like, come along. I can get you in.'
I left the office at lunchtime and went to City Road. My friend introduced me to the sergeant-major who said, 'Are you willing to join?'
I said, 'Yes Sir.'
He said, 'How old are you?'
I said, 'Eighteen and one month.'
He said, 'Do you mean nineteen and one month?'
I thought for a moment and said, 'Yes Sir'.
He said, 'Right—ho, sign here.' So that was my introduction to the army. Nobody seemed bothered – just as long as they got a new recruit. It didn't seem right.

From M ARTHUR, *Forgotten Voices*, published in 2002

Source G A government poster of 1914.



Source H An official photograph from the Second World War showing school children practising using their gas masks.



Source J A photograph of a Second World War evacuation train.



Source K From a book by AJP Taylor called *English History 1914–45*.

Taylor was a Professor of History who had lived through the war himself and whose book was published just 20 years after the end of the Second World War.

The greatest operation of the war was the evacuation from the danger areas of primary school children, complete with teachers, and of mothers with children under 5. Four million had been planned for; only a million and a half went. The special trains ran to time. Difficulties started when the evacuees reached their reception areas. The city children had no warm clothes or strong shoes, let alone rubber ones, to protect them against the country mud. The city children often carried vermin. These troubles fell on those least able to cope with them. The poor housed the poor. The wealthy evaded their responsibilities.

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