

ERITH COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

GCSE HISTORY COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Teacher Information

Introduction:

These assignments comprise sources, questions and mark schemes which will enable your pupils to fulfil the coursework requirements in history for Edexcel Foundation specifications for first examination in summer 2003. You may use these assignments as they stand. They have been designed to assess the full range of grades targeted by the syllabus (Grades G-A*). Assistance may be given in class to aid the comprehension of the sources.

You may also adapt these assignments if wished by:

- providing additional or replacement sources
- providing additional or replacement questions.

However, if you wish to make changes you should submit these to the Edexcel Foundation for approval to ensure that revised sources or questions give candidates appropriate opportunity to meet the targets specified at the appropriate level.

Management of the assignment:

The assignment has been designed to accommodate some flexibility of classroom practice. The following points should be borne in mind:

- Although all the questions *may* be tackled as part of a single task, this is not necessary. The timing of individual questions within an assignment may be staggered over a period of time and integrated into the programme of study.
- Candidates may use the sources provided in the pack as part of their preparation for Assignment 1 but this is not a requirement.
- Your candidates should draw upon their contextual knowledge when using the sources for Assignment 2. The historical content listed below should be familiar to candidates before they attempt to answer the questions.

The impact of The Second World War on a London Borough: Bexley 1939-1945

This assignment should arise from a teaching programme designed to occupy approximately half a term. Before candidates begin this assignment they should have knowledge of:

- a nation at war: conscription; evacuation; the Blitz; civilian contributions
- the economic impact of the war; state regulation of industry, agriculture
- propaganda, morale and the role of popular entertainment.

Introduction

The Second World War had a profound effect on the local area and on the lives of the people who lived there. The war was fought on two fronts. There was the war fought by servicemen and women in the air, on the sea and overseas. There was also the war fought at home. Civilians found themselves in the front line from aerial bombardment and were called upon to organise to help fight potential invaders.

This assignment asks you to investigate the part played by these civilian men and women in the defence of the Borough of Bexley from 1939 to 1945. You will be asked to examine a range of evidence to help you discover what roles people played during the war and how important these were. How effective were the measures taken? Were the Local Defence Volunteers a vital part of Britain's defence or a 'Dads Army' that was not to be taken seriously?

SOURCE A: A description of the first meeting of The Bexley Company L.D.V's in 1940, as recalled by Captain R.G.K. Baker in the 1980s

The first meeting of what was to be called the L.D.V'S was held at the local ex-servicemen's club. All types of men joined the company, including railway porters, gamekeepers, publicans, the village blacksmith and local bank manager. The blacksmith reverted to his former military status of Company Sergeant Major (the greatest enthusiasm!) and organised his parades in an old farmyard.

SOURCE B: An account by a member of D Company (Sidcup) from *The Home Guard of Britain* by Charles Graves, published in 1973

Mr. Priest and I were members of the obstruction gang and scrounged what we could and found out all sorts of obstacles that were supposed to delay tanks. Our best effort was made from old scaffold poles and barbed wire and would not have harmed a 'jeep' let alone a Panzer tank.

SOURCE C: A photograph of HM King George V inspecting home guard units at Coldbow in 1940



USE OF PUBLIC TRENCH SHELTERS.

The trenches in this Borough have been built for the use of only those people who are

Passing through the Streets

during an air raid.

When the "Action Warning" sounds, members of the public are requested:

IF OUT OF DOORS, to return to their homes, provided this can be done within approximately five minutes.

IF INDOORS, to remain in their homes or go into their own private shelters.

IF AT WORK, to remain at their place of work or to go into the shelter provided at their place of work.

Only when these things are all impossible should the PUBLIC TRENCH SHELTERS IN THE BOROUGH BE USED.

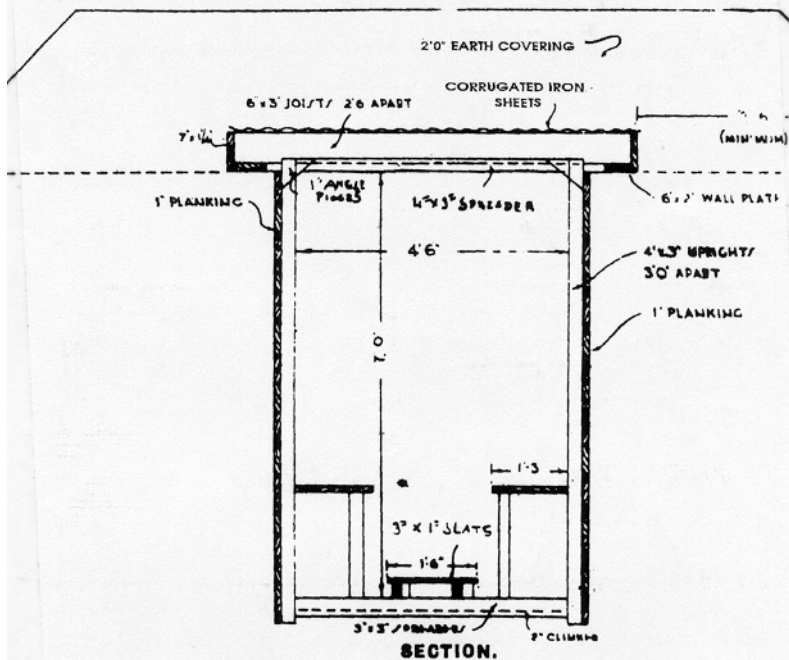
PRIVATE SHELTERS.

There are a large number of people in this Borough who qualify for a free Anderson Steel Shelter.

For those people who do not qualify and wish to construct their own, the following design shows a form of trench with timber revetments which can easily be made:—

BOROUGH OF BEXLEY.

TIMBER TRENCH REVETMENTS.



Further information on this matter can be obtained from Mr. G. A. Joy, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Danson Mansion, Danson Park, Bexleyheath.

SOURCE E: An Erith resident writing in 1983 describes why he did not use an air raid shelter during the war

I didn't shelter at all. I was always in the bedroom. My philosophy was, if I'm going to get hit, I'm going to get hit. If I'm in the shelter and its meant for me, I'm still going to get hit. So I might as well be in bed and have a rest.
