World War II on the British Homefront

Britain prepares for war:

MILITARY

CIVILIAN LIFE

1. Look at Source 1. This is one of a series of posters designed to encourage people to grow their own food.

A. Why did the government want the Home Front to 'Dig for Plenty'?

B. If the Home Front had not organized growing more of its own food, what would have happened?

C. Would a poster showing what would happen if people did not start to 'dig' have been more or less effective? Explain your answer.
DIG FOR PLENTY

GROW FOOD IN YOUR GARDEN OR GET AN ALLOTMENT
2. Read Source 2. This is a government poster about evacuation.

A. Who is the ghostly figure whispering 'Take them back'?

B. Where is he pointing?

C. What does he want the mother to do and why?

D. Why might this mother be tempted to 'Take them back'?

E. Why were civilians evacuated during the Second World War?
DON'T do it, Mother—

LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN IN THE SAFER AREAS

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
3. Look at Sources 3a and 3b. These were leaflets produced during the war.

A. What dangers are these leaflets about?

B. How useful do you think the advice offered in these leaflets is?

C. The government had to be careful not to scare people, but at the same time it wanted people to take notice and be prepared. How do these leaflets:

1) get people to take notice?

2) educate people?

3) reassure people?
Gas Raid Quiz
No. 17

WILL YOU BE IN GREAT DANGER IF A GAS RAID COMES WHEN YOU ARE IN A TRAIN?

Answer:
Not if you have your gas mask with you and put it on immediately. The guard of the train would take charge and decide what was best for the passengers. Never set out on a journey without your gas mask.

(This space is presented by Whitbread & Co. Ltd.)
WAR GAS

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY

IF THE GAS RATTLES SOUND

Put on mask, holding your breath until mask is in position. Turn up collar. Put on gloves or keep hands in pockets. Take cover in nearest building quickly. Put up umbrella if you have one.

IF YOU GET GASSED

by Vapour Gases
1. Keep your mask on even if you feel discomfort.
2. If discomfort continues, go to First Aid Post.

by Liquid or Blister Gas
1. Dab, but don’t rub the splash with your handkerchief. Then destroy the handkerchief.
2. Rub No. 2 Ointment well into place (buy a 6d. jar now from any chemist). In an emergency, chemists will supply Bleach Cream free.
3. If you can’t get the Ointment or Cream within 5 minutes, wash the affected place with soap and warm water.
4. Take off at once any garment splashed with gas.

HOW TO PUT ON YOUR MASK
1. Hold your breath. 2. Hold mask in front of face, thumbs inside straps. 3. Thrust chin well forward into mask. Pull straps as far over head as they will go. 4. Run finger round face-piece taking care head-straps are not twisted.

MAKE SURE IT FITS
See that the rubber fits snugly at sides of jaw and under chin. The head-straps should be adjusted to hold the mask firmly. To test for fit, hold a piece of paper to end of mask and breathe in. The paper should stick.

ALWAYS HAVE YOUR GAS MASK WITH YOU – DAY AND NIGHT.
LEARN TO PUT IT ON QUICKLY.
4. Look at Source 4. This poster shows a woman slapping Hitler in the face.

A. What type of war work does this poster advertise?

B. What is happening in this poster?

C. Can you explain the double meaning behind the caption?

D. Why was the work of part-time women workers an essential part of defeating Hitler?

E. How might this poster encourage women to contribute to the war effort?
5. Look at Source 5. This picture shows Hitler balancing on a telephone line.
A. What other precautions were taken to protect Britain?
You never know who's on the wires!

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY

End of document questions.