Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer all questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 53.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Questions labelled with an **asterisk** (*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed.
- The marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar are clearly indicated.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
Answer ALL questions.

Look carefully at the background information and Sources A to H in the Sources Booklet and then answer Questions 1 to 5 which follow.

1 Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about the evacuation of children during the Second World War?

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2 Study Source B.

How does the author get the message across in this leaflet? Explain your answer, using Source B.

(8)
3 Study Sources A, C and D.

How far do Sources A, C and D support the view that evacuation was well organised? Explain your answer, using these sources.

(10)
(Question 3 continued)

(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)
4 Study Sources E and F.

Is Source E or Source F more useful to the historian who is enquiring into the behaviour of evacuee children? Explain your answer, using Sources E and F.

(10)
(Question 4 continued)
Study Sources B, G and H and use your own knowledge.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in this question.

‘The evacuation of children during the Second World War was not a success.’

How far do you agree with this statement? Use your own knowledge, Sources B, G and H and any other sources you find helpful to explain your answer.

(16)
Background information

At the start of the Second World War in 1939 the Government evacuated thousands of children from cities that were likely to be targets for enemy bombers. There are different views about the experiences of evacuation and the success of the scheme.

This paper presents you with sources about the evacuation of children during the Second World War and gives you the opportunity to decide for yourself how successful this was.

Source A: From *We’ll Meet Again, a Personal and Social History of World War Two* by Vera Lynn, published in 1989.

Plans for the evacuation of mothers and children from danger areas to safe reception areas had been made long before the war but were not carried out consistently across the nation. Some cities such as Plymouth, Swansea and Bristol were bombed but had not been selected as areas at risk. Not all those due to be evacuated wanted to be. In London less than half of the schoolchildren were evacuated and only 15% were evacuated from Sheffield. The Government had planned to move about three and a half million people but only about one and a half million took part in the official scheme.


The evacuation scheme is a voluntary one but clearly children will be much safer and happier away from the big cities. There is space in the safe areas for these children. People have offered homes where the children will be more than welcome. The schoolchildren will have their teachers and other helpers with them and their schooling will continue. Don’t wait to register your children if you live in a crowded area. Of course it means heartache to be separated from your children, but you can be sure that they will be well looked after. That will remove one of your worries.
Source C: A photograph showing a group of children taking part in a rehearsal for evacuation in London, August 1939.

(Source: David Savill/Stringer © Getty Images)

Source D: From an account published in 2001 on a local history website about evacuation in 1939.

The Village Evacuation Committee had made careful plans for the reception and billeting of the party. As they were expecting a junior girls school to arrive, they were greatly put out to see several lads, nearly six feet tall, getting off the coaches. The expected age range of the evacuees was 11-16 years but younger sisters and brothers, some as young as five years old, were included in the party. This greatly increased the problems of billeting them.

At the Village Hall the thoughtful Committee had provided a substantial tea which was welcome and very necessary as the children had been travelling for seven hours. Of course, the village was not big enough to contain so large a number of children and the surrounding areas had to help out.
Source E: A photograph taken early in 1943 by Fred Ramage, an official war photographer. It shows ‘Grannie Norris’ providing tea for some of the evacuees she looked after during the war. She was later awarded the British Empire Medal for her ‘ceaseless care’ of London evacuees.

Time for Tea

(Source: Fred Ramage/Stringer © Getty Images)
Source F: From a diary entry for Friday 28 July 1944 collected for the Mass Observation Project. The project asked members of the public to send them a day-to-day account of their lives.

In the flat beneath us they have one evacuee from London aged six. The mother, aged 23, is staying in a nearby street with her four other children. Our local teacher has a class of five and six-year-old evacuees. She says she is sure they’re all little criminals. This week they have thrown stones at a train and smashed windows and climbed up a railway signal stopping it from working. They have also broken into a pigeon shed, killed one pigeon on her nest, stolen eggs and then cooked and eaten them. Is it surprising the police are always visiting the school?


I found life in the village a pleasant change from the poverty I’d known in London. The people in the village were not unfriendly to us ‘townies’, but they thought we were bad-mannered and we spoke differently. But I was happy staying with the village blacksmith and his family. The food was good, there was lots of it and we had a tablecloth on the table for every meal, unlike home where we had a sheet of newspaper. We’d climb trees and collect frogspawn from streams. I soon looked different, fatter with rosy cheeks. However, we were always plotting to go home. All the kids were. They missed home even if they’d been beaten at home. They missed their mums.


Many evacuees went back to town. Host families were glad to be rid of unpleasant visitors. Perfectly clean and polite evacuees were glad to leave host families who treated them badly. In some homes, evacuees were treated like slaves or inmates in a detention centre.