

Before-reading questions

1 *Model answers:*

- a The Second World War began in September 1939.
- b Britain and France declared war on Hitler when he invaded Poland.
- c Two groups of countries fought in the Second World War. On one side were Germany, Italy and Japan. On the other side were the Allies. These included Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, the Soviet Union and the USA.
- d The war in Europe ended on 8th May 1945, about a week after Hitler killed himself, and Germany surrendered to the Allies.

2 *Model answer:*

The man is not young, but not old either. He is wearing formal clothes – a suit and hat. He is raising his right hand to make the “V for Victory” sign. He looks happy. He is Winston Churchill.

3 *Reader's own answer.*

4 *Reader's own answer.*

5 *Reader's own answer.*

6 *Model answer:*

There are many reasons why people make speeches. For example, on somebody's birthday or at a wedding. People in politics make speeches to persuade others that their ideas are right. A good speaker should plan his or her speech well, and speak clearly to keep listeners interested.

7 *Model answer:*

Darkest Hour means a time when it seems that all hope has gone. I expect the story to be about the time when Britain and Winston Churchill were experiencing their most serious problems.

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 They were no longer confident about his ability to defeat Hitler.
- 2 The Nazis invaded Norway and attacked British troops. Eighteen hundred British soldiers died and several warships were destroyed.
- 3 He was a member of the House of Lords so he would not have real power. He also knew that Winston might cause problems for him and understood war and military matters better than he did.
- 4 Many people did not trust Winston because he had changed his political party twice. They also felt he was responsible for the disaster in Norway.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 Mrs Elizabeth Everest
- 2 He was a teacher who helped Winston very much. He taught him to use words well, and to speak and write excellent English.
- 3 1st October 1900
- 4 They were both invited to dinner by a friend in London.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 Because Winston pushed his plan forward and did not listen to others. His plan did not work, and about 400,000 men lost their lives.
- 2 First, Clemmie's brother, Bill, killed himself. Then Winston's mother died. After that, Winston and Clemmie's little daughter, Marigold, became ill and died.
- 3 Winston believed that Hitler and the Nazi Party were a dangerous threat to Britain and other countries in Europe. He was worried because Germany was building up her army and navy.
- 4 Because he was sure he had saved Britain from war.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 Germany had invaded Holland.
- 2 He realized he could not continue as prime minister if the Labour Party was not going to support him.
- 3 Very happy and excited
- 4 He wanted to keep Chamberlain and Halifax on his side so they would not cause him any problems.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Because Winston did not want to work with Halifax and refused to meet him for two weeks.
- 2 They thought that it was not the same as invading a foreign country.
- 3 *Kristallnacht* happened, when the Nazis destroyed Jewish shops, businesses and other buildings all over Germany, and killed or hurt many Jewish people. People in Britain were shocked.
- 4 Because Winston liked to have meetings very late at night.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 Because sometimes Winston did not wear clothes, or only wore his underwear.
- 2 He took a long time to prepare his speeches, and thought carefully about what he was going to say.
- 3 Winston had to make the British people understand that the situation was very dangerous, and persuade them to trust him as their leader.
- 4 The people are the ordinary British public. They are supporting Winston.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 President Roosevelt and Benito Mussolini. He wanted Roosevelt to help Britain and he wanted Mussolini to stay out of the war.

- 2 They asked if he could send more planes to France.
- 3 He hoped to persuade the French leaders not to surrender.
- 4 They did not have enough food or equipment.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 He had to stay in Calais and fight the German troops, to give the BEF time to be evacuated.
- 2 Because he was worried it could lead to peace talks with Hitler.
- 3 Winston's idea was for the Admiralty to send a large number of small boats across the Channel and bring back the British troops.
- 4 They continued fighting until the last moment, then they surrendered. They were sent to prisoner-of-war camps for the rest of the war.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 Whether to approach Mussolini about a possible peace agreement.
- 2 Halifax and Chamberlain wanted to approach Mussolini. Winston, Sir Archibald Sinclair and the two Labour MPs were against the idea.
- 3 Because he did not think he could work with Winston any more.
- 4 **Model answer:**
Winston Churchill is a great leader. We will always support him.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 If Lord Gort could no longer contact the War Cabinet for orders, he should make his own decisions.
- 2 If the French troops were not able to escape, French public opinion might turn against the British.
- 3 The British had done a great job in evacuating their troops from Dunkirk, so now

there was a better chance that Roosevelt would want to help them.

- 4 He gave a very famous speech which touched the hearts and minds of the British public, and encouraged them to continue fighting.

After-reading questions

1 *Reader's own answer.*

2 **Model answers:**

- a Adolf Hitler was leader of the Nazi Party, and became dictator of Germany in 1934. He was responsible for starting the Second World War when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939.
- b Benito Mussolini was dictator of Italy. He brought Italy into the war on Germany's side in June 1940.
- c President Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the USA from 1933 until his death in 1945. He brought the US into the war on the Allies' side in December 1941.
- d Paul Reynaud became Prime Minister of France on 21st March 1940. After the German army invaded France in May 1940, he was against making a peace agreement with Germany.

3 **Model answer:** Winston and Halifax had very different ideas about important subjects like Indian independence. Halifax wanted to approach Mussolini about a peace agreement, but Winston was against this idea. However, both men were similar because they really loved Britain and wanted to protect her.

4 **Model answer:** Clemmie helped Winston greatly, and did everything she could to make things easier for him. She loved Winston very much and had a very close relationship with him; however, she also told him when he was behaving badly.

5 **Model answers:**

- a Halifax did not agree with many of Winston's ideas.
- b King George VI did not think that Winston was the best man to become prime minister.
- c Paul Reynaud felt greatly encouraged by Winston.
- d The British public loved and supported Winston.
- 6 Through his speeches, Winston used the power of words to change history. He gave hope to the British public in their darkest hour and encouraged them to continue fighting.

7 *Reader's own answer.*

8 *Reader's own answer.*

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 1 Britain and France were **allies**.
- 2 Britain declared **war** on Germany.
- 3 The Nazis **destroyed** several British warships in Norway.
- 4 Hitler was a dangerous **threat** to Britain.
- 5 Winston had always wanted to be **Prime Minister**.
- 6 The First Lord of the Admiralty was head of the British **navy**.

CHAPTER TWO

- 2 1 b 2 c 3 f 4 d 5 e 6 a

CHAPTER THREE

- 3 1 Winston warned people that Hitler **would attack** Britain.
- 2 The government had not expected that the Turkish army **would** fight back.
- 3 Winston told his colleagues, "I'm sure that my plan about Gallipoli **will** work."
- 4 Marigold asked Clemmie if she **would** sing her favourite song.

- 5 Winston thought that if India left the Empire, this **would destroy** it.
- 6 Chamberlain asked Halifax if he **would** go and see Hitler in Germany.
- 7 Hitler promised Chamberlain that he **would** not invade other countries.
- 8 "German troops **will** soon arrive in Britain," said Winston in Parliament.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 4 1 b 2 b 3 c 4 c 5 a

CHAPTER FIVE

- 5 1 An American friend of Halifax thought he was very **ambitious**.
- 2 Winston's **political** relationship with Halifax did not begin well.
- 3 In 1935, Halifax was **appointed** Minister of War.
- 4 Germany was **defeated** by the Allies in the First World War.
- 5 Winston did not support the idea of Indian **independence**.
- 6 When Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland, he broke the **Treaty** of Locarno.
- 7 After Eden **resigned**, Halifax became Foreign Secretary.
- 8 Thousands of German troops arrived on the **border** with Czechoslovakia.

A message was received today from Prime Minister Reynaud. It said that German troops ¹ **had crossed** (cross) the River Meuse and that the French army ² **had retreated** (retreat) to Antwerp. Reynaud also reported that although the French ³ **had tried** (try) to stop the Germans, they ⁴ **had failed** (fail) and the Germans ⁵ **were** (be) now on their way to Paris. He asked if Britain ⁶ **could/would send** (send) planes and troops to help France. Prime Minister Churchill

replied that it ⁷ **would not be/was not** (not be) possible to send more planes; however, Britain ⁸ **would continue** (continue) to fight to the end.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 7 1 true 2 false 3 false
4 false 5 true 6 false

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 8 1 **Chamberlain** had the idea of evacuating the British troops from France.
- 2 **King George VI** was visited at Buckingham Palace by Winston.
- 3 **Brigadier Nicholson** defended Calais with his men.
- 4 **The BEF** was in a very dangerous situation in France.
- 5 **Reynaud** came to London to discuss the war situation.
- 6 **Mussolini** made threats to bring Italy into the war.
- 7 **Halifax** wrote a paper about how to approach Mussolini.
- 8 **Winston** asked the Admiralty to put out a call for small boats.

CHAPTER NINE

- 9 1 Hundreds of small boats sailed across the Channel.
- 2 Halifax suggested approaching Mussolini about a peace agreement.
- 3 Winston wanted Britain to continue fighting to the end.
- 4 Winston often had very different ideas to Halifax.
- 5 Halifax said that he could not continue working with Winston.
- 6 The King stayed in Belgium to support his troops.
- 7 Thousands of British soldiers were waiting on the beaches.

CHAPTER TEN

- 10 1 c 2 b 3 c 4 a
5 b 6 c 7 b 8 a

Project work

Reader's own answers.