

AP WORLD HISTORY

DBQ

Part Q

(Suggested writing time – 40 minutes)

Percent of Section II score – 33 1/3

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-12. (The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.)

This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents.

Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.
- Uses all of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by grouping them in as many appropriate ways as possible. Does not simply summarize the documents individually.
- Takes into account the sources of the documents and analyzes the authors' points of view.
- Identifies and explains the need for at least one additional type of document.

You may refer to relevant information not mentioned in the documents.

1. Using the following documents analyze and evaluate the motives and outcomes of various strategic bombing campaigns seen in the 1930's and 40's.

Historical Background: Strategic bombing during World War II is a term which refers to all aerial bombardment of a strategic nature between 1939 and 1945 involving any nations engaged in World War II. This includes the bombing of military forces, railways, harbors, cities (civilian areas), and industrial areas.

Document #1

Source: Air Chief Marshal Arthur Harris, head of RAF Bomber Command, comment to Churchill's comparison of the Dresden raid to an "act of terror," . The phrase "worth the bones of one British grenadier" was an echo of a famous sentence used by Otto von Bismarck

I ... assume that the view under consideration is something like this: no doubt in the past we were justified in attacking German cities. But to do so was always repugnant and now that the Germans are beaten anyway we can properly abstain from proceeding with these attacks. This is a doctrine to which I could never subscribe. Attacks on cities like any other act of war are intolerable unless they are strategically justified. But they are strategically justified in so far as they tend to shorten the war and preserve the lives of Allied soldiers. To my mind we have absolutely no right to give them up unless it is certain that they will not have this effect. I do not personally regard the whole of the remaining cities of Germany as worth the bones of one British Grenadier.

The feeling, such as there is, over Dresden, could be easily explained by any psychiatrist. It is connected with German bands and Dresden shepherdesses. Actually Dresden was a mass of munitions works, an intact government centre, and a key transportation point to the East. It is now none of these things.

Document #2

Source: The Air Offensive Against Japan, Daniel L. Haulman. AIR FORCE HISTORY AND MUSEUMS PROGRAM, 1999

Anxious to demonstrate the effectiveness of the B-29, General LeMay decided to supplement precision, high-altitude, daylight bombing with low-altitude, night incendiary bombing of Japanese cities. In the single deadliest air raid of World War II, 330 American B-29s rain incendiary bombs on Tokyo, touching off a firestorm that kills upwards of 100,000 people, burns a quarter of the city to the ground, and leaves a million homeless.

Document #3

Source: View from the Dresden City Hall Tower at the end of the bombing, 1945



Document #4

Source: “Fog of War”, documentary film on the life of Robert McNamara, Former Defense Secretary in the 1960’s who worked in the Office of Statistical Control during WWII where he analyzed the U.S. bombers' efficiency and effectiveness, especially the B-29 forces commanded by Major General Curtis LeMay.

Regarding the plans to incinerate Japanese cities, he states general LeMay came to the conclusion that "if we'd lost, we'd be prosecuted as war criminals; and I think he was right. LeMay, and I, were acting like war criminals."

Document #5

Source: Guernica is a painting by Pablo Picasso. It was created in response to the bombing of Guernica, a Basque Country village in northern Spain by German and Italian warplanes at the behest of the Spanish Nationalist forces, on 26 April 1937,

Guernica shows the tragedies of war and the suffering it inflicts upon individuals, particularly innocent civilians. This work has gained a monumental status, becoming a perpetual reminder of the tragedies of war, an anti-war symbol, and an embodiment of peace.



Document #6

Source: RAF memo issued to airmen on the night of the attack on Dresden, Germany

Dresden, the seventh largest city in Germany and not much smaller than Manchester is also the largest un-bombed built-up area the enemy has got. In the midst of winter with refugees pouring westward and troops to be rested, roofs are at a premium, not only to give shelter to workers, refugees, and troops alike, but to house the administrative services displaced from other areas. At one time well known for its china, Dresden has developed into an industrial city of first-class importance.... The intentions of the attack are to hit the enemy where he will feel it most, behind an already partially collapsed front... and incidentally to show the Russians when they arrive what Bomber Command can do.

Document #7

Source: Major Alexander Seversky, US Army Air Force, Victory Through Air Power (NY, 1942).

"Another vital lesson - one that has taken even air specialists by surprise - relates to the behavior of civilian populations under air punishment. It had generally been assumed that aerial bombardment would quickly shatter popular morale, causing deep civilian reactions. ... The progress of this war has tended to indicate that this expectation was unfounded. ... These facts are significant beyond their psychological interest. They mean that haphazard destruction of cities - sheer blows at morale - are costly and wasteful in relation to the tactical results achieved. Attacks will increasingly be concentrated on military rather than on random human targets. Unplanned vandalism from the air must give way, more and more, to planned, predetermined destruction. More than ever the principal objectives will be critical aggregates of electric power, aviation industries, dock facilities, essential public utilities and the like." --

Document #8

Source: Official transcript of the meeting at the Kremlin between Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin on Wednesday, August 12, 1942, at 7 P.M.

"The Prime Minister said that we hoped to shatter twenty German cities as we had shattered Cologne, Lubeck, Dusseldorf, and so on. More and more aeroplanes and bigger and bigger bombs. M. Stalin had heard of 2-ton bombs. We had now begun to use 4-ton bombs, and this would be continued throughout the winter. If need be, as the war went on, we hoped to shatter almost every dwelling in almost every German city. "

Document #9

Source: Memorial to the victims of the Hamburg bombings. Inscription reads: "On the night of the 29th of July 1943, 370 persons perished in the air-raid shelter on the Hamburgerstrasse in a bombing raid. Remember these dead. Never again fascism. Never again war".



Document #10

Source: Doctrines of the Army Air Corps' with covering note from the War Plans Division of the War Department General Staff, December 21, 1934

"The effectiveness of aviation to break the will of a well-organized nation is claimed by some; but this has never been demonstrated and is not accepted by members of the armed services of our nation." -- "

Document #11

Source: Mr. Geoffrey Shakespeare, Liberal Member of Parliament for Norwich, May 1942

"... I am all for the bombing of working class areas of German cities. I am Cromwellian - I believe in 'slaying in the name of the Lord', because I do not believe you will ever bring home to the civil population of Germany the horrors of war until they have been tested in this war."

Document #12

Source: Letter from President Truman to Senator Richard Russell, August 9, 1945.

[In response to Sen. Russell's wish that Japan be hit with more atomic and conventional bombing:]

I know that Japan is a terribly cruel and uncivilized nation in warfare but I can't bring myself to believe that, because they are beasts, we should ourselves act in the same manner. For myself, I certainly regret the necessity of wiping out whole populations because of the 'pigheadedness' of the leaders of a nation and, for your information, I am not going to do it until it is absolutely necessary... My object is to save as many American lives as possible but I also have a humane feeling for the women and children in Japan."

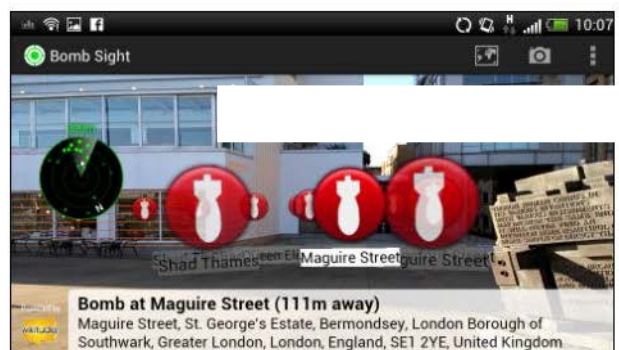
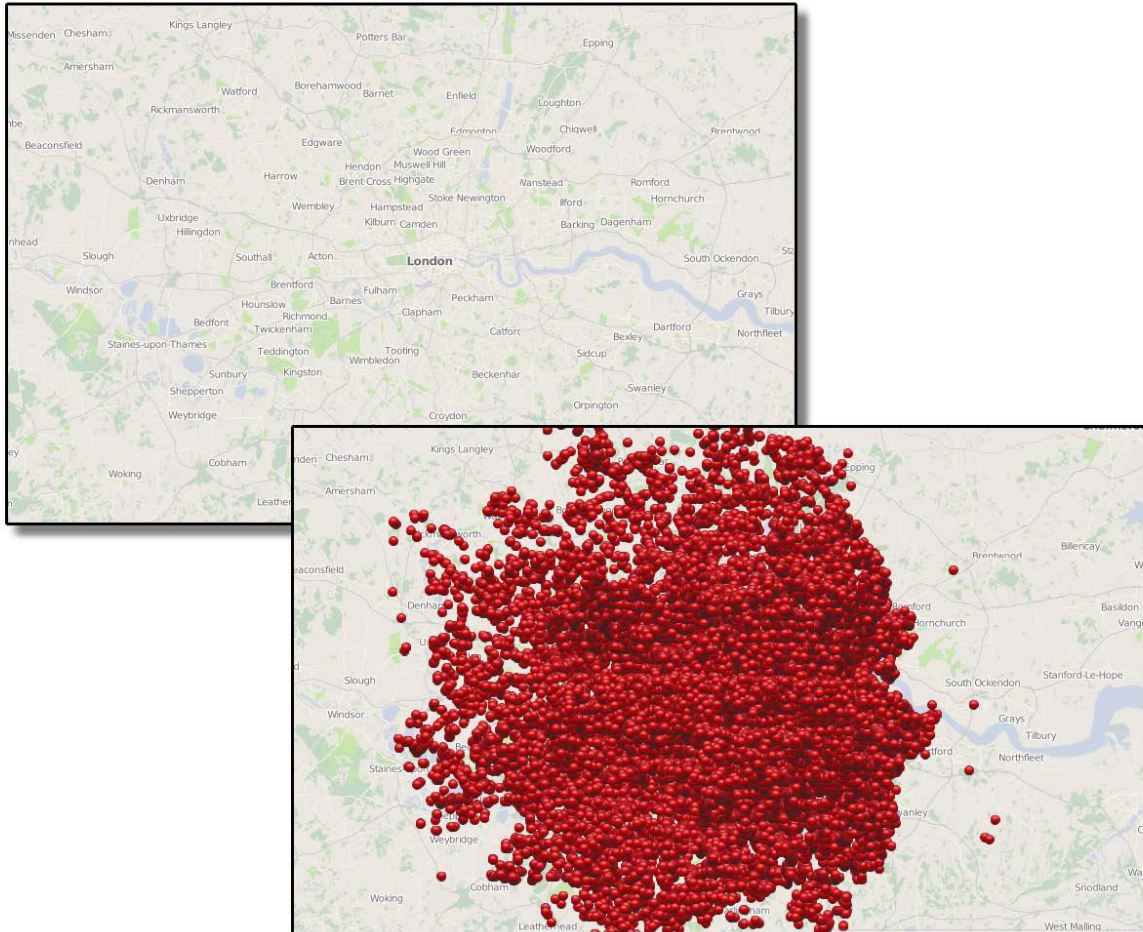
Document #13

Source: Nurse Emma Duffin (Belfast, Ireland), who had served in the Great War, contrasted death in that conflict with what she saw: Belfast Blitz 1941

"(Great War casualties) had died in hospital beds, their eyes had been reverently closed, their hands crossed to their breasts. Death had to a certain extent been ... made decent. It was solemn, tragic, dignified, but here it was grotesque, repulsive, horrible. No attendant nurse had soothed the last moments of these victims; no gentle reverent hand had closed their eyes or crossed their hands. With tangled hair, staring eyes, clutching hands, contorted limbs, their grey-green faces covered with dust, they lay, bundled into the coffins, half-shrouded in rugs or blankets, or an occasional sheet, still wearing their dirty, torn twisted garments. Death should be dignified, peaceful; Hitler had made even death grotesque. I felt outraged, I should have felt sympathy, grief, but instead feelings of revulsion and disgust assailed me."

Document #14

Source: Bomb Sight (University of Portsmouth and British National Archives): Mapping the WW2 Bomb Census . Two maps showing number of bombs which fell between 7 September 1940 and 21 May 1941. In the major raids, more than 100 tons of high explosives were dropped on 16 British cities. Over a period of 267 days (almost 37 weeks), London was attacked 71 times



The team has also created an augmented reality version for Android mobile phones that uses GPS to pinpoint the user. Tourists can simply point their phone at an area to see if it was bombed, and if it was, find out more.