

Name:

School:



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

Entrance Examination

History

2023

Total time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

- You may have 15 minutes to study the source documents before the examination starts.
- Answer ALL questions in Section A and ONE question from Section B.
- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.
- Please start Section B on a fresh sheet of paper.
- Total marks for Section A: **30**. Total marks for Section B: **20**.

Section A: The Battle of Britain



After the defeat of France in June 1940, Hitler turned his attention to Britain. The German air force (Luftwaffe) was given the task of breaking British air power so that a seaborne invasion could take place. The Battle of Britain (as it came to be called) followed a number of phases:

Phase 1 – June-July 1940

German attacks focused on shipping in the Channel, British ports and radar stations.

Phase 2 – August 1940

Attacks moved to RAF fighter airfields with the object of knocking out Britain's fighter defences so that German bombers could attack at will.

Phase 3 – September 1940

Attacks switched away from the airfields to focus on British cities, particularly London.

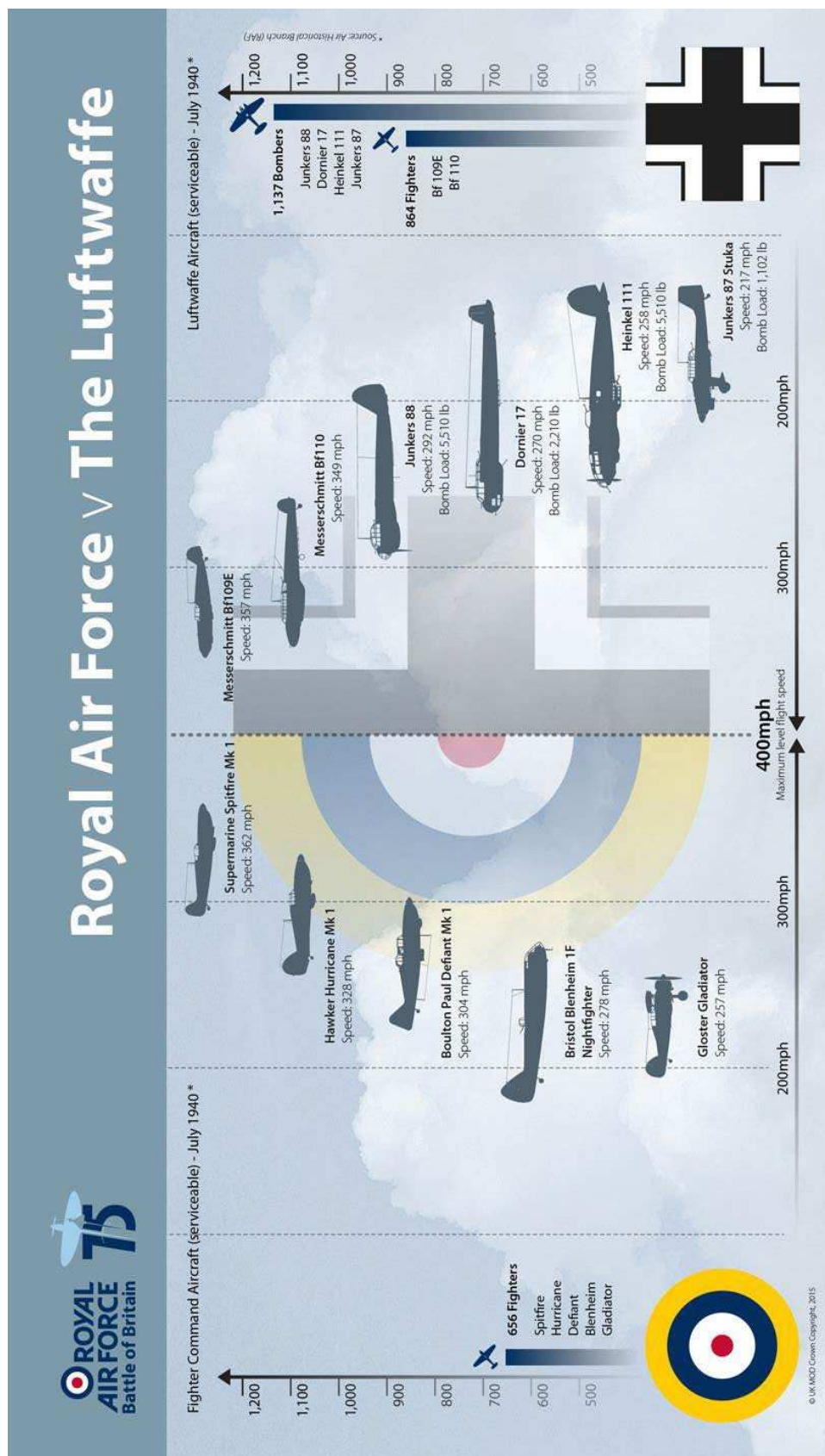
The 15th of September marked the defeat of that strategy with significant German losses and is now commemorated as Battle of Britain Day. Why was Britain able to win the Battle of Britain?

You are not expected to know anything about the sources below, but will be given marks on the strength of your analysis. The questions follow: please answer all of them.

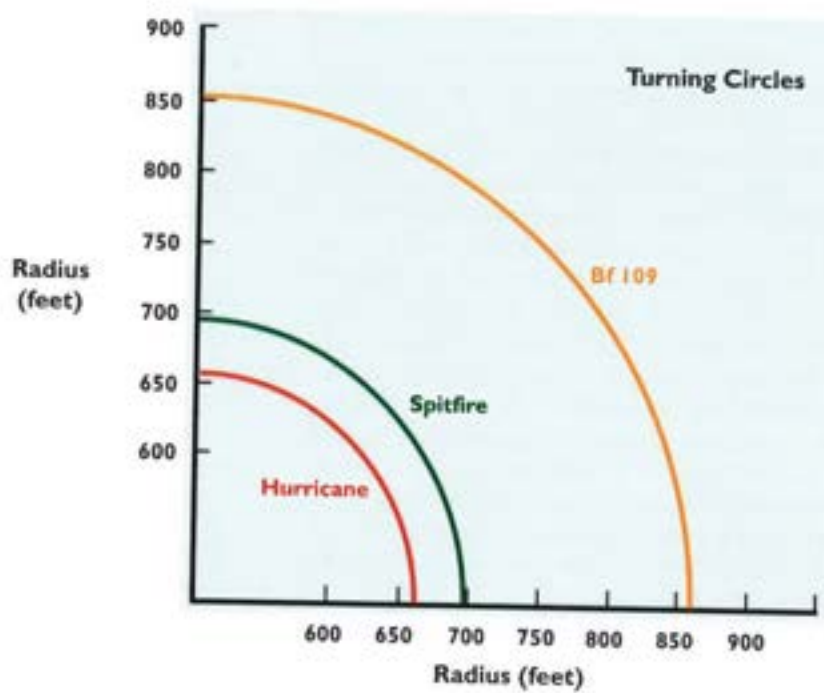
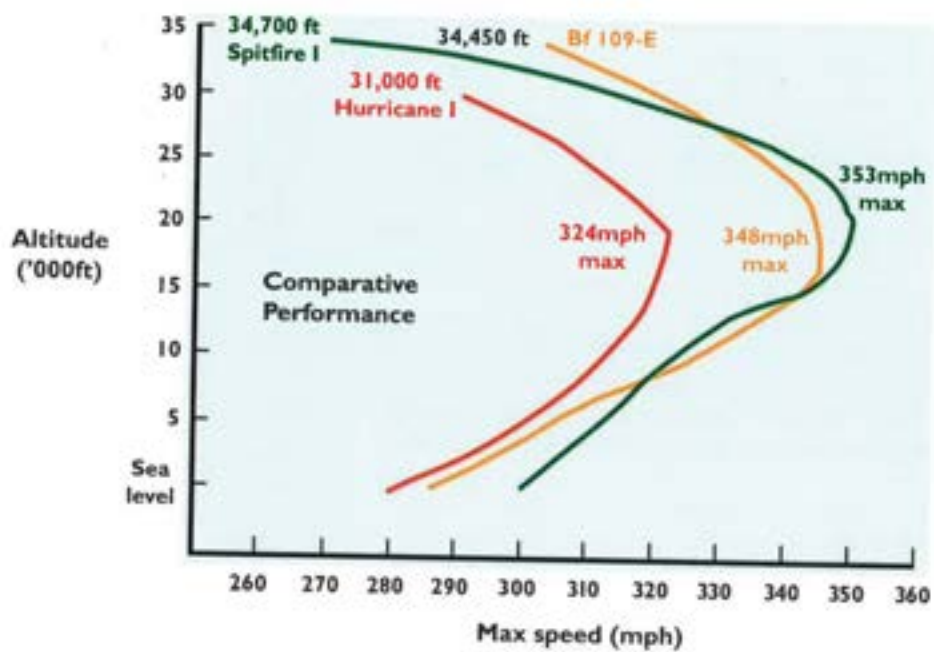
Source A: A map showing the RAF defences and ranges at which radar stations were able to detect incoming enemy aircraft.



Source B: An infographic showing the speeds of some of the aircraft used in the Battle of Britain (you'll need to turn the booklet to read it properly).



Source C: Graph showing the altitude, speeds and turning circles of British (Hurricane and Spitfire) and German (Bf109) fighters.



Source D: Order from Air Vice-Marshal Keith Park, 19 August 1940, changing the tactics to be used.

SECRET

From: Air Officer Commanding,
No.11 Group, Royal Air Force.

To: Group Controllers.

Copy to: All Sector Commanders, for Sector Controllers.

Ref: 11G/489

Date: 19th August, 1940.

The German Air Force has begun a new phase in air attacks, which have been switched from coastal shipping and ports on to inland objectives. The bombing attacks have for several days been concentrated against aerodromes, and especially fighter aerodromes, on the coast and inland. The following instructions are issued to meet the changed conditions:

- a) Despatch fighters to engage large enemy formations over land or within gliding distance of the coast. During the next two or three weeks, we cannot afford to lose pilots through forced landings in the sea;
- b) Avoid sending fighters out over the sea to chase reconnaissance aircraft or small formations of enemy fighters;
- c) Despatch a pair of fighters to intercept single reconnaissance aircraft that come inland. If clouds are favourable, put a patrol of one or two fighters over an aerodrome which enemy aircraft are approaching in clouds;
- d) Against mass attacks coming inland, despatch a minimum number of squadrons to engage enemy fighters. Our main object is to engage enemy bombers, particularly those approaching under the lowest cloud layer;
- e) If all our Squadrons around London are off the ground engaging enemy mass attacks, ask No.12 Group or Command Controller to provide Squadrons to patrol aerodromes DEBDEN, NORTH WEALD, HORNCHURCH;
- f) If heavy attacks have crossed the coast and are proceeding towards aerodromes, put a Squadron, or even the Sector Training Flight, to patrol under clouds over Sector aerodrome;
- g) No.303 (Polish) Squadron can provide two sections for patrol of inland aerodromes, especially while the older Squadrons are on the ground refuelling, when enemy formations are flying over land;
- h) No.1 (Canadian) Squadron can be used in the same manner by day as other Fighter Squadrons.

Note: Protection of convoys and shipping in the Thames Estuary are excluded from this instruction (paragraph (a).)

K R Park
Air Vice-Marshal, Commanding,
No.11 Group, Royal Air Force.

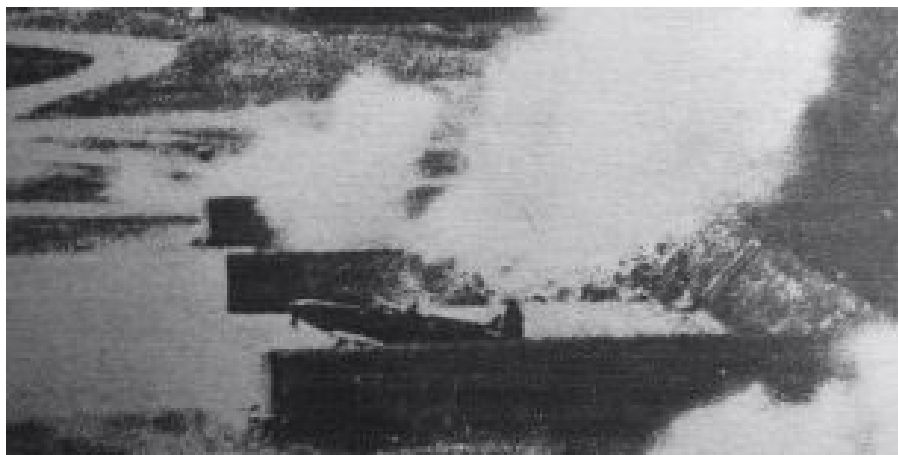
Source E: Map of Keith Park's Fighter Group 11's area of operations and the direction of German attacks.



Source F: Two photographs. The second is an altered version of the first, zoomed in on the central section of the photograph.



Photograph taken by Rolf von Pebal, a photographer of the Luftwaffe's War Reporters Department, attached to the KG76 squadron, 18 August 1940, showing the attack on RAF Kenley. The puffs of smoke in the background are from German machine gun fire.



Photograph taken by Rolf von Pebal, as it appeared in 'Der Adler' magazine, August 1940. Der Adler was a propaganda magazine published with the support of the Luftwaffe High Command.

Source G: An extract from the diary of Squadron Leader R.G.A Barclay, 15th September 1940. Barclay was a member of a Hurricane squadron during the Battle of Britain.

The Me109s escorting the bombers were far above and behind and did not trouble us, I believe due to Spitfires engaging them, as I noticed a great dog-fight going on, smoke trails etc. Owing to the lack of fighter opposition, there was no need to break right away downwards, so I came back and did a short quarter attack. The Do215 then broke away from the formation and I saw that the engines were just idling as it glided down. Then about 8 of our fighters set on the lame duck about 3,000' below me. I claimed this as a "probably destroyed". Meanwhile, I was climbing to attack again, but a fighter came up behind me and made a pass at me, so I had to turn sharply to find out what he was – one of those confounded Spitfire's again – glamour boys!

I dived after one Dornier and gave it a longish burst (4 secs?) at about 200 yards. There was suddenly a flash of brilliant flame from the port engine (I nearly flew across the fire of another Hurricane) and maimed, the Dornier went into the clouds (claimed as probably destroyed). I transferred my attention to another Dornier skimming the top of the cloud and closed in to a range of about 30 yards, shooting all the time. The E.A. [enemy aircraft] took slight evasive action, but I was able from my position above and to the left, to keep the correct deflection on the glass house of the pilot. As my ammo gave out, the Dornier dived into the clouds. I followed him through and picked him below again over Shellhaven. He seem quite OK, so I did a feint attack on him. He did a gentle left turn and began to dive more and more steeply towards the ground 7,000' below. This beautifully streamlined aircraft seemed to gather speed steadily and I began to wonder when he was going to pull out of the dive. Then a gigantic flash several hundred feet high as the E.A. went straight into the ground. A most memorable and awful sight. The bomber had just missed a bungalow and crash on the track in front of it.

All our aircraft returned safely and we got about 10 confirmed victories (Dornier 215s and Heinkel 111s) and the same number of probable victories, not to mention damaged EAs – our best day since the squadron was formed in May. I had a bullet hole in the starboard wing, bit no damage done. (British fighters shot down 185 EA today – 131 bombers). Boozy party this evening.

Questions

Study sources A, B, and C.

1. How well prepared do you think that Britain was to resist the Luftwaffe (German air force) in July 1940? [6]

Study sources D and E.

2. In what ways did Park want to change tactics and why? Explain your answer. [6]

Study the two photos in source F.

3. Why do you think that the image has been altered? [2]

Study source G.

4. This question has two parts.
 - a. What did Barclay think about Spitfire pilots? [2]
 - b. How did he regard the enemy in the combats that he describes? [2]

Study Source H.

5. How do you think the difference between the reported and actual figures of destroyed enemy aircraft can be explained? [4]

Before the Battle of Britain, Hitler said:

England, despite the hopelessness of her military situation, has so far shown herself unwilling to come to any compromise.

Now consider all of the sources.

6. Using all the sources, why do you think Britain was able to win the battle of Britain, despite Hitler's claim that her military situation was hopeless? [8]

Total for Section A: 30 marks

Section B: Essays

Answer one question.

Use examples from your own knowledge to support your answer. Wherever possible, anchor your arguments in your knowledge of the past.

All questions are worth 20 marks.

1. Oral history is a type of history made by interviewing people and collecting their accounts of the past. What do you think might be the strengths and weaknesses of this type of history?
2. Assess the reasons for English or British defeat in any one battle, series of battles, or war.
3. Assess the significance of any scientific or technological development you have studied.
4. Assess the significance of any female figure from history that you have studied.
5. 'All revolutions devour their own children.' How far do you agree?
6. Is history a science or an art? Explain your answer.

Total for Section B: 20 marks

Total for paper: 50 marks

END OF PAPER