

Key Events	
27 th May '40	German forces crash through the Ardennes forest quickly cutting the British soldiers (BEF) from the French army. Soldier quickly retreated to Dunkirk with the German forces hot on their heels.
28 th May	Public informed of the evacuation.
4 th June '40	338,000 men were rescued including French soldiers and Polish pilots. It was called a "miracle" as the Government only anticipated that 40,000 would be evacuated.
Key people	
Winston Churchill	British Prime Minister from 1940 – 1945. Made a rousing speech after the evacuation telling the country that they would "never surrender".
Civilians	A fleet of civilian boats such as fishing trawlers, steam boats, pleasure boats were used to rescue the men from the beaches. They either sailed back to England or helped the men get from the beach to the larger naval ships at sea.
Key Words	
Evacuation	From 27 th May – 4 th June the removal of British troops from Dunkirk in France. 338,000 men rescued.
Operation Dynamo	Built around the castle for extra protection..
Luftwaffe	German Airforce – well trained and very experienced.
RAF	Royal Air Force. British pilots.
Blitzkrieg	German tactic using a combination of air attacks, paratroopers, tanks and mobile infantry to quickly capture a town.

Part Two: Warfare – Was the evacuation at Dunkirk a miracle or a disaster? Assessment Objectives (AO) 1,4

Skills: Interpretations - How are the interpretations different? Why? Which is most convincing?

Skills How are the interpretations different?	Steps to success. 1. Describe two differences that you can see that are related to the question. . . <i>"One difference is regarding"</i> <i>"A second difference is"</i> 2. Describe what you see in both interpretations to ensure you are comparing. <i>"For example in A it shows . . . Whereas in B it shows . . ."</i>
Why are the interpretations different?	Steps to success. 1. Explain the differences by first explaining the differing purposes of both interpretations and how this would affect what was written: <i>" One reason for the differences is because both were produced for different purposes. For example . . . This meant the interpretation would include . . ."</i> 2. Explain a second reason either the Timing of the interpretation was produced or Origin (who produced the source) but always link this back to the purpose and where the information would come from. <i>"Another reason was who produced the interpretation. For example . . . Therefore the artist/director would base their work on . . ."</i>
Which is most convincing?	Steps to success. 1. Take each interpretation in turn and include facts (O.K) that support BOTH interpretations. 2. Include a fact to challenge BOTH interpretations. 3. Evaluation of which is most convincing. Base this on which supports your own knowledge the most and which gives the wider or narrower view. <i>"Interpretation A is most convincing/ to some extent because it states . . . From my own knowledge I know that . . ."</i> <i>However, A fails to mention . . ."</i> <i>Whereas Interpretation B is more convincing/to some extent because it states . . . From my own knowledge I know that . . ."</i> <i>However, B fails to mention . . ."</i> <i>To conclude A/B is most convincing because . . ."</i>

<u>Knowledge Dunkirk</u>
The German Blitzkrieg bypassed the Maginot line by coming through the Ardennes Forest in Southern Belgium in May 1940. This caught the British and French by surprise and split their armies. The British government ordered the evacuation of British troops to begin on 27 th May 1940 . It was code named Operation Dynamo. However the British government was not optimistic and estimated only 40,000 men would be evacuated.
Nazi forces tried to intimidate British soldiers by dropping propaganda saying "You are surrounded". However, British soldiers put up a valiant defence. Using a combination of forces e.g RAF, navy and the determination of soldiers the evacuation was even more successful than anticipated. Civilian volunteers were called up to rescue the soldiers from the shallow waters either bringing them back to England or taking them from the beach to the big naval ships.
However, Hitler made a mistake which bought time for British to evacuate. He ordered the tanks to stop firing on the British. Some argue this was done in order to save shells for his invasion of Paris. He ordered the Luftwaffe to finish the British off. Despite the fact that soldiers were at risk from German Luftwaffe, soldiers mainly followed orders and lined up waiting their turn. The British improvised using the break water and beached vehicles as walk ways to the boats. 338,000 British soldiers escaped so could fight another day.
However, not all was a miracle. All heavy equipment had to be left behind. The RAF (Airforce) lost 474 planes defending the beaches. Six destroyers and 200 little ships were sunk. Over a million Allied troops were taken prisoner. Germany also gained use of the ports and airfields in Northern France from which they could attack Britain.
Nevertheless, the use of civilian boats was a triumph and proved to be of great propaganda value. The 'Dunkirk Spirit' was referred to in order to inspire civilians in hard times.