

Case study: SHORTAGES & RATIONING

When war broke out in 1914 most people were not prepared for the long test of endurance which the war turned into. One of the most critical problems Britain faced was feeding its people.

In this case study you will look at a range of sources which focus on this issue and see how shortages and rationing affected people.

SOURCES:

Letter on increased cost of living, 1916



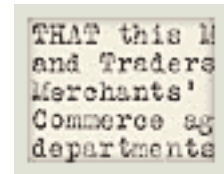
Cartoon on shortages, 1917



Cartoon: 'Doing Their Bit', 1917



Criticism of government control over supplies



Ration Coupons



Letter encouraging food economy, 1918



Government poster: eat less bread, 1917



Cartoon on rationing, 1918



HOW TO USE THE SOURCES IN THIS CASE STUDY :

You can use these case study sources in two ways:

THE BIG QUESTION

The sources in this case study can help you by providing information you can use in your presentation. Study each source carefully. Note down anything which tells you about:

- The powers which the Defence of the Realm Act gave to the government
- How DORA was enforced
- How DORA affected people's everyday lives
- How people reacted to the restrictions which DORA placed on their lives

EXAM PRACTICE

If you want to get some practice on examination type questions, just go to or download the Practice Questions.

Don't forget – if there are words or phrases in the sources which you cannot understand, try the glossary!