**Head2Head Interview Challenge**

Winston Churchill: Hero or Villain?

**Stage 1**

▪ Prior to the lesson, your teacher will print off sets of sources and place them on different tables.

▪ The class will be divided into pairs, and each pair will be directed to a different table with a different set of sources.

**2 minutes**

Read the source in silence.

**5 minutes**

Still in silence, annotate the source by underlining key words / phrases and either (a) Making your observations, or (b) Asking questions, in the margin (your partner can answer these questions if they wish – otherwise the teacher may do so later).

▪ During this time, the teacher will move between the groups silently adding extra questions / observations and answering any questions raised.

**TIP 1**: Use green to underline positive points, and red to underline negative points, about Churchill.

**TIP 2: Think about such things as:**

Appearance | Temperament | Personality | People skills | Habits

**Stage 2**

▪ All pairs will now be moved around the class to look at a different set of sources. Repeat the process for as long as you wish. At the end of the process your teacher may lead a discussion about what we have learned about Churchill so far, covering such questions as “What are his most positive qualities? The most negative? What are the most obvious differences of opinion? Why do they differ?

**Stage 3: Writing the next paragraph of your essay.**

“The opinions of people who personally knew and worked with Churchill are another very useful source of evidence about whether he deserves to be remembered as a hero or a villain.

• Some of these people clearly regarded Churchill as a hero. One such person was [name of witness]. They said of Churchill that “…”. This suggests that Churchill was …. because … *(repeat this format for as many quotes as you wish)*

• However, other witnesses had a more mixed impression. For example, …

• Moreover, other witnesses clearly disliked Churchill. For example, …

• Nevertheless, historians realize that there are limitations to these sources. For example …”

**Stage 4 (Extension / Homework)**

▪ The completed sheets should be put on display where they can be compared.

▪ Different students should prepare a one-sided infographic entitled ‘What sort of a man was Churchill?’ Make sure you categorise your points, title them clearly, and include direct quotes to illustrate your points.



**Set 1**

"Keep your eye on Churchill" should be the watchword of these days. Remember, he is a soldier first, last and always. He will write his name big on our future. Let us take care he does not write it in blood.'

*A.G. Gardiner, historian, writing in 1914.*

Churchill was a giant, a huge presence in history, and perhaps our only modern figure to compare with Shakespeare or Darwin. But he was a man, not a deity; when he got it right he was sublime, but he often got it wrong. He changed his opinions; rather than the Age of Churchill, we might perhaps more properly call it the Age of Churchills.

*Andrew Marr, 2011*

When Winston was born lots of fairies swooped down on his cradle with gifts, imagination, eloquence, industry, ability; and then came a fairy who said, 'No one person has the right to so many gifts,' picked him up and gave him such a shake and twist that with all the gifts he was denied judgment and wisdom.

*Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin*

**Set 2**

He is quite the most wonderful man I have ever met, and it is a source of never-ending interest studying him and getting to realise that occasionally such human beings make their appearance on this earth - human beings who stand out head and shoulders above all others…

*Lord Alanbrooke*

The wonderful thing is that 3/4 of the population of the world imagine that Churchill is one of the Strategists of History…and the other 1/4 have no idea what a public menace he is and has been throughout this war! … Winston had ten ideas every day, only one of which was good, and he did not know which it was… Without him England was lost for a certainty, with him England has been on the verge of disaster time and again...... Never have I admired and despised a man simultaneously to the same extent. Never have such opposite extremes been combined in the same human being.

*Lord Alanbrooke*

**Set 3**

He is wise. War is terrible and it cannot be won except by lost lives. That being so, don't think of them.'

*Robert Menzies, the Australian prime minister*

He so evidently enjoyed the war that I could never like him. I merely acknowledge him, like Genghis Khan, to have been great.

*James Lees-Milne*

An inspirational leader, he seemed to typify Britain's courage and perseverance in adversity and its conservatism in success. He was a man of extraordinarily strong convictions and a master in argument and debate. Completely devoted to winning the war and discharging his responsibility as Prime Minister of Great Britain, he was difficult indeed to combat when conviction compelled disagreement with his views. In most cases problems were solved on a basis of almost instant agreement, but intermittently important issues arose where this was far from true. He could become intensely oratorical, even in discussion with a single person, but at the same time his intensity of purpose, made his delivery seem natural and appropriate. He used humor and pathos with equal facility, and drew on everything from the Greek classics to Donald Duck for quotation, clich', and forceful slang to support his position. I admired and liked him.

*President Eisenhower*