

Source Analysis Skills - Summary Sheet

		How Useful?			
How Much?				How Reliable?	
What it does say	What it doesn't	Ways it is	Ways it isn't		
Summarise, deduce, infer!	Elaborate, show extra knowledge!	Nature	Origin	Purpose	
<i>Don't just describe – read between the lines!</i>	<i>What sources leave <u>unsaid</u> is often deliberate...</i>	What (e.g. cartoon / Photo / Public speech / Private diary / Newspaper article)?	When (primary or secondary)? Where (what side of the argument were they on)?	Who (for? by?) To inform (=objective)? To persuade (=subjective)?	

General Advice about Q1-5 (5 mins planning, 10 mins writing)

- These answers will require at least two short paragraphs, e.g. consider the following:
- Are you surprised by this source?
- How reliable is this source?
- Why do these two sources disagree?
- How far does source X back up source Y?
- Does source X prove that source Y is incorrect?

Specific Advice about Q6 (10 mins planning, 20 mins writing)

"How far do these source prove that..."

Suggested approach:

- Read through the first source – write "Y" next to it if it supports the statement, "N" if it doesn't.
- Underline a key quote from the source that you can use later (or circle off a key detail if it is a visual source).
- Repeat for the other sources, then record your findings in a grid like this:

	Supporting the statement	Not supporting the statement
Sources		

You are now ready for your write-up.

- First, write a detailed paragraph talking about all the evidence supporting the statement. The key to getting a high mark is to make sure that you not only explain how each source supports the statement, but also answer the question: **is it a reliable source, or not?**
- Second, write a detailed paragraph talking about all the evidence which does not support the statement. Follow the same format by quoting points from the sources, explaining them in a bit of detail, and considering: **is it a reliable source, or not?**
- Finally, write a conclusion. Maybe the sources are divided, but one group of them is clearly more reliable than the other. Maybe they appear to disagree at face value, but actually look at the issue from different perspectives. A good technique is to imagine that you are trying to "referee" between the two sides of the argument. Can you come up with a conclusion that you think both sides would be happy to accept?