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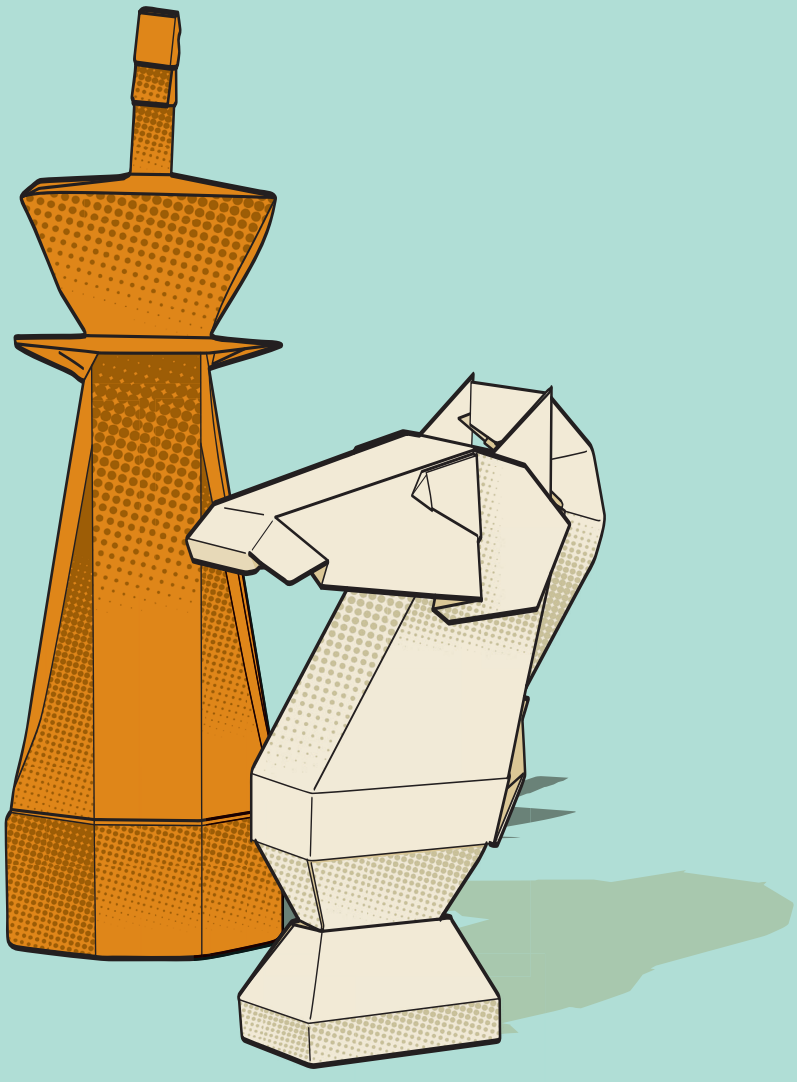
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History

Warfare and British society, c1250–present

Revision Guide and Workbook



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Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

Warfare and British society, c1250–present

Revision Guide and Workbook

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A small bit of small print

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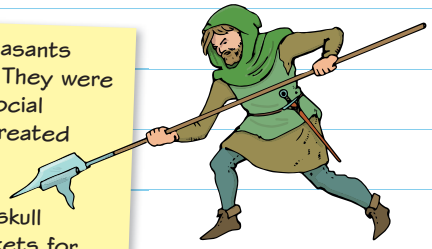
Composition of the army

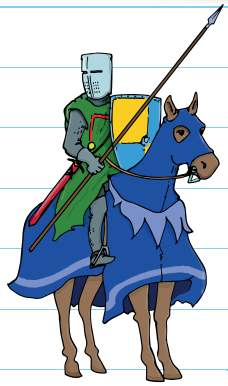
England was at war for most of the period c1250–c1500, either in civil war or war with France, Scotland or Wales. Armies were therefore a fundamental part of medieval English society.

Composition of armies

Armies were made up of **infantry** and **mounted knights** (cavalry).

The infantry were peasants who fought on foot. They were the bottom of the social hierarchy and were treated poorly compared to other soldiers. They may have worn skull caps and leather jackets for protection.





The mounted knights were gentry and nobility who fought on horseback and were superior in status to other types of soldier. They would have been armed with swords and lances, and protected with helmets and chainmail.

Armies had between 5000 and 10 000 soldiers. Usually, there were twice as much infantry as mounted knights.

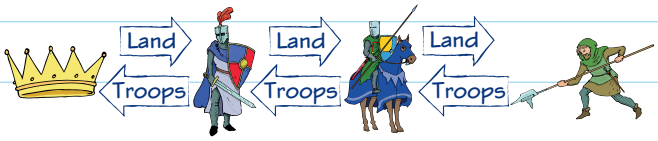
Battlefield roles

1. Mounted knights were the most powerful force on the battlefield. They weakened the enemy in the first round of attack by using:
   - the **mounted charge**, charging through enemy lines to reach and kill the enemy commander
   - the **rout and chase**, used to scatter enemy infantry and attack them once they were dispersed.
2. The infantry's task was to hold the enemy attack and then defeat the enemy infantry.
   - The **shield wall**, with overlapping shields, and spears or pikes, held enemy attacks.
   - The **mêlée** was where the infantry engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with swords, pikes and daggers.

Archers were infantry who used bows or crossbows. They played a minor role working with the mounted knights to break down the enemy at the beginning of battle.

Social structure and army command

The **feudal** structure and attitudes of English society had a direct impact on how armies were commanded. Armies were commanded by those in superior social positions.



Kings | Lords (commanders) | Noblemen and gentry (knights) | Peasants (infantry)

Warfare was often used by kings and lords to protect their power and take power from other kings and lords. As result, warfare was usually **limited** and focused on **castles**.

Feudal system

The feudal system organised society into groups based on people's roles. Land was granted in return for service to the lord. Those serving their lord in battle provided their own equipment and provisions.

When the feudal system began to break down and it was more difficult to persuade people to fight, kings paid for soldiers to fight for them – these men were called **mercenaries**.

A person's combat experience or skills were less important than their social status in the feudal system and, as a result, the quality of leadership varied.

Now try this

Choose **one** of the following army roles: infantry, mounted knight or archer. List **three** facts to describe your chosen role in the period c1250–c1500.

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New weapons and formations

The introduction of new weapons and formations had an impact on warfare, tactics and strategy between 1250 and 1500. By the end of the period, the use of mounted knights was in decline.

The longbow

In the 1290s, **longbows** were introduced into English armies. Edward I's successes made them a key part of English armies for 150 years.



- 15 arrows a minute could be fired, five times more than the rate of the crossbow.
- Their increased power meant arrows could pierce through a knight's chainmail.
- They had an effective range of 200 metres, twice that of shorter bows and crossbows.

Pikes and schiltrons

The Scots under William Wallace used **schiltrons** – tight formations of infantry gathered together in a circle or square, with **pikes** facing outwards towards the enemy.



A strong defensive formation, Wallace used the schiltron to move infantry forwards and attack. The schiltron was used effectively in battles against English infantry in 1297 and English cavalry in 1314.

Gunpowder and the development of cannon

In the 13th century, the formula for **gunpowder** arrived in Europe from China. Gunpowder was used to fire **cannon** and, by 1450, cannon were becoming a standard **siege** weapon. This, in turn, affected the design of castles as old styles became increasingly vulnerable to cannon fire.

Limitations of cannon	Advantages and improvements
Heavy and expensive – to transport them involved complicated logistical planning.	Useful in destroying city and castle walls, shortening sieges.
Inaccurate – generally they could only be used against large targets, such as walls.	Improvements were made in range and aim with new technology, including trunnions (rods to raise the height of the barrel).
Short range – they had to be close to their targets, making them vulnerable to attack.	Specialist cannon were developed that could launch cannonballs high over defensive walls or over longer distances.
Unreliable – they were likely to blow up or fail to fire.	Metal was used for cannon barrels and balls, rather than stone, which made cannons more effective and accurate.
Slow to reload.	
Trained personnel needed.	

The mounted knight

The introduction of new weapons led to the **decline of the mounted knight** in numbers and importance. This was because:

1. the longbow was more effective in taking down knights, horses and infantry
2. the schiltron was effective at defeating cavalry, increasing the infantry's importance
3. the cavalry became more integrated, taking on specialist tasks, like patrolling and scouting, and they often dismounted to fight defensive battles.

The feudal system had led to small armies in which noble knights were the superior fighters. The decline of mounted knights had important consequences for society. Instead, kings paid for mercenaries rather than relying on the nobility for their military power. This reduced the link between social class and command.

See page 6 for an example of the impact of the longbow.

Now try this

In a short paragraph, explain why gunpowder and cannon were important developments, despite the many limitations of their use.

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Recruitment and training

How combatants were recruited into medieval feudal armies changed between 1250 and 1500. There was less change in how combatants were trained for battle.

Change: recruitment of knights

In 1250, mounted knights were recruited through the **feudal levy**: knights owed 40 days' knight service and tenants owed their lords a set number of knights based on the amount of land they owned. As these dues became harder to enforce, extra forms of recruitment emerged.

1. **The Assize of Arms** was a tax on wealth, requiring all men with land to provide a number of fully equipped knights.
2. **Mercenaries and scutage** increasingly replaced feudal service and the Assize. Subjects paid **scutage** (shield money) instead of performing military service, allowing the king to hire mercenaries.
3. **The Royal Household** were permanent troops paid by the king as his personal guard. They increased rapidly in size and importance.

Change: recruitment of infantry

There was no feudal duty to serve as infantry. Instead, duty, escape, adventure or **plunder** were incentives.

1. **The Statute of Winchester (1285)** extended the Assize of Arms. All fit men between 16 and 60 were instructed to muster once a year ready and equipped for 40 days' service.
2. **Commissioners of Array** assessed recruits and their weapons across the country.
3. After 1337, the feudal levy and Assize of Arms began to fall away in favour of infantry being **paid** for their service.

For more on the feudal system, see page 1.

Baggage trains, made up of wagons and pack animals, stretched for miles behind an army.

Provisioning and equipment

In this period, demand for food and weapons for the army increased because:

- England was involved in many wars
- there were more infantrymen to feed
- more horses needed to be fed (each mounted knight took four – twice that of 1250 and archers also began to ride horses)
- more ammunition (arrows, bullets, cannon balls) was needed
- gunpowder weapons needed specific ammunition and were hard to transport.

Changes in provisioning

Combatants provided their own provisions and equipment for 40 days, but new solutions were needed to meet the increased demand.

1. **Requisitioning**: the Crown forced merchants to sell goods (purveyance) and provide ships in order to supply their baggage trains.
2. **Weapon stores**, such as the Royal Armoury, were built up.
3. **Supply depots** were set up ahead of the army and supplied by road or sea.
4. **Pillaging**, especially in enemy territory, was a common last resort.

Continuity: training

There were no permanent armies and no barracks, so no organised training for warfare.

- The Assize of Arms called for infantry recruits to be skilled with their weapons. But this was often not the case.
- Mounted knights learned military skills and competed in tournaments, but there was no training to fight as a group.
- The nobility were the military class and kings relied on leading nobles and close relatives to command their armies.

The mustering of infantry gave commanders a chance to assess their equipment and skills.

Impact of the longbow



Longbows required great strength and long training to master.
1285: Statute of Winchester set up archery targets in every town.
1363: Edward III ordered archery practice on every feast day or holiday.

Now try this

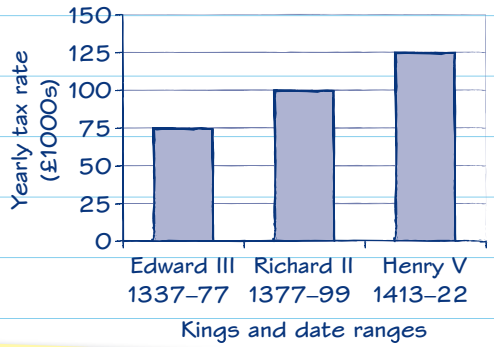
Explain why the recruitment of cavalry changed in this period.

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Impact on civilians

The impact of war on civilians was mostly – but not entirely – negative. Kings needed money to pay for the wars, and they needed soldiers to fight and provisions to supply them with.

Feudal duties – taxation



The increase in tax was a burden for civilians but was probably not such a great burden compared to being recruited or having their belongings plundered by armies. The tax represented only about 1 per cent of most civilians' annual income.

Feudal duties – recruitment

- Civilians were forced to fight by the king. Desertion and refusal were common.
- Civilians increasingly chose to pay money instead to avoid going to war (scutage).
- Fighting meant time away from family and home, as well as great risk of death or injury.
- Recruits were expected to provide their own equipment and provisions for 40 days.

For more on recruitment and provisioning, see page 3.

Requisitioning

Kings needed food and supplies (and ships) for their armies.

→ Food and fodder was requisitioned (bought by force) from civilians. This was called purveyance.

→ Civilians were meant to be paid a fair price but often weren't or were given IOUs – promises to pay at a later date.

→ Civilians suffered on two accounts:
1 They had less food and supplies for their own use.
2 They were out of pocket to the Crown.

Benefits of warfare

War had a few benefits for civilians as well: pay was better in the army than pay for work on the land; the demand for supplies, weapons, fortifications, and so on, boosted industry and gave employment.

Fighting, plunder and its effect on enemy civilians

Sieges involved cutting towns or cities off from supplies of food and water, and – increasingly – bombarding them, forcing their surrender. This caused severe suffering for the community.

Plunder (stealing supplies from communities) gave the army food and starved the enemy.



The impact of war on civilians.

Raids on communities caused severe suffering. Sometimes the enemy was paid to go away.

Ransom (money) could be demanded from enemy communities for protection and from captives in order to secure their release.

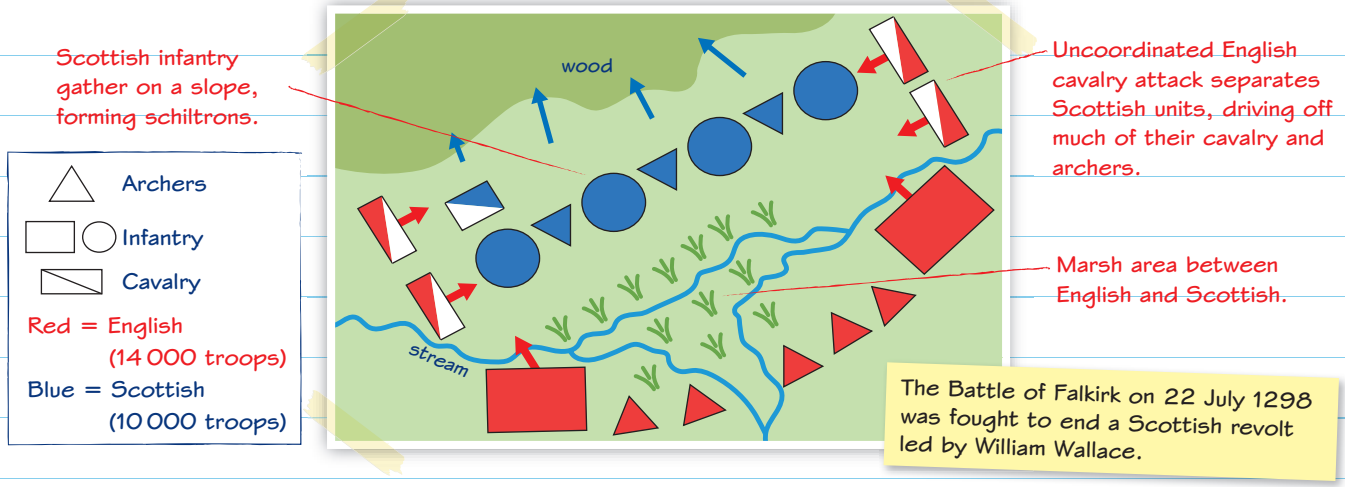
Now try this

Give **two** ways in which warfare affected the lives of civilians in the period c1250–c1500.

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The Battle of Falkirk, 1298

Case study The Battle of Falkirk was fought between the Scottish and the English in 1298. The English won due to their use of longbow archers, but the Scots also effectively used the schiltron.



The Battle of Falkirk on 22 July 1298 was fought to end a Scottish revolt led by William Wallace.

The impact of the longbow

Edward I's use of his longbowmen was the turning point at Falkirk and it became an essential feature of English strategy in warfare for the following 150 years.

The English were having difficulties penetrating the Scottish schiltrons, so Edward decided to use his 5000 longbows. A storm of arrows came down on the Scottish infantry. With no armour, many died.

As gaps appeared in the walls of Scottish pikes, the English cavalry were able to charge the Scottish lines. Wallace's troops fled and the English infantry joined the attack.

The impact of the schiltron formation



Wallace's schiltrons were well disciplined and the English cavalry found it hard to break through their lines of pikes. But their lack of armour left them vulnerable to archers and the Scottish archers were left isolated and exposed.

Edward I

Good decisions:

- Supplying his troops on campaign by sea.
- Outmanoeuvring Wallace to attack him from the flanks (sides of the army).
- Using his archers against the Scottish schiltrons.

Bad decisions:

- He had little control over his cavalry, but this ultimately was a fortunate thing.

William Wallace

Good decisions:

- Use of schiltrons.
- Positioning his forces on a slope, with his rear protected by woods.

Bad decisions:

- Failing to protect his flanks.
- Deciding to fight with inferior numbers.
- Not controlling his nobles, who deserted.
- Not using his remaining cavalry and archers.

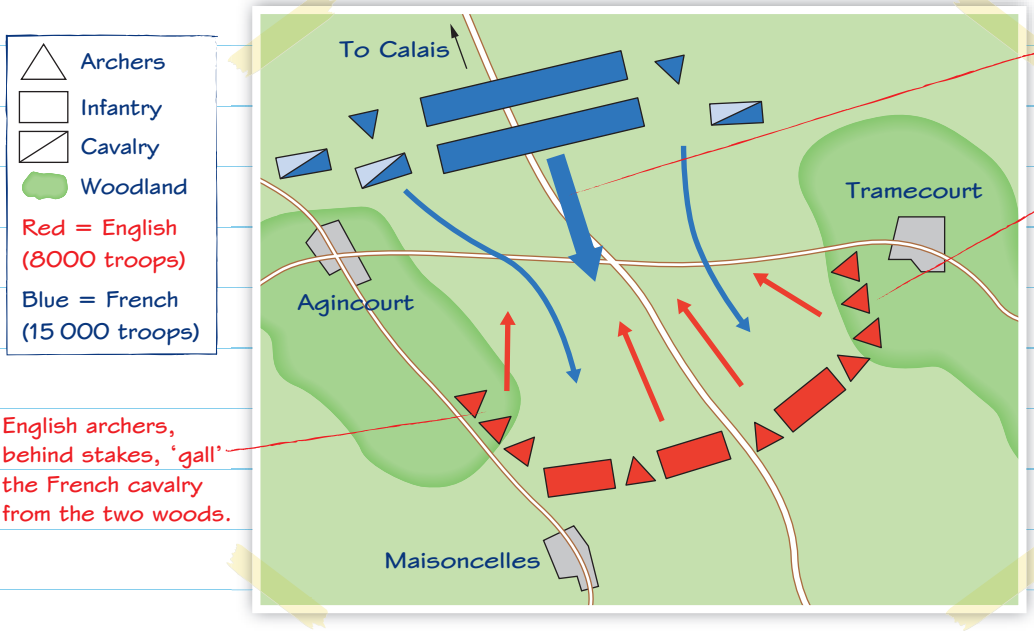
Now try this

Explain why Edward I won the Battle of Falkirk. Give **three** reasons.

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The Battle of Agincourt, 1415

Case study The Agincourt campaign of 1415 is part of the Hundred Years' War. The battle highlights several key elements: strategy, weapons, leadership and social attitudes.



The battle was fought as Henry V's tired troops were intercepted on their way to Calais. They were weak from a long march across France and from the disease dysentery.

Choice of battleground

Henry chose the perfect defensive position.

- Henry's army was placed at the narrowest point of the battlefield to funnel the French into a tighter space and make it harder for them to overwhelm the English.
- Heavy, wet clay farmland separated the two forces, difficult for cavalry to charge across.
- The flanks were protected by woodland.
- Long sharpened stakes were set in the ground and angled towards the oncoming French, to impale charging horses.
- Some English archers used the shelter of the woods to fire at the French and provoke a reckless and disorganised counterattack.

Henry V

Good decisions:

- He was brave and fought alongside his men.
- He chose an excellent defensive position.
- He made his cavalry fight on foot, forming a solid centre to support his infantry.
- He sent his archers to 'gall' the French into attacking over unfavourable ground.

Bad decisions:

- His march across France weakened his army.
- He was trapped and forced to fight.

The role of cavalry and archers

1. English longbowmen fired into the sides, or directly onto the heads, of the French cavalry. They could fire 100 000 arrows per minute.
2. The French cavalry tried to retreat but met their own advancing infantry.
3. The French infantry were exhausted, having struggled through thick mud and over the bodies of the dead and injured.
4. The English knights fought on foot, holding the centre. The archers joined from the flanks with swords and daggers.
5. The English advanced, and the French were forced to retreat.

French chivalry

French knights lived by a code of **chivalry** (a code of behaviour) that dictated how they acted in battle. It focused on honourable duels between knights. The French knights were outraged at being attacked by archers, they believed this to be unchivalrous and they reacted recklessly.

Now try this

List **five** key reasons why the English won at Agincourt, despite being outnumbered.

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Changes in the army

Between 1500 and 1700, warfare became more professional. Men were employed full-time as professional soldiers and were trained to fight with new weapons and tactics.

Composition

- Armies still included cavalry, infantry and artillery, assisted by labourers, engineers and baggage trains for supplies.
- Most generals still preferred about twice as many infantry to cavalry when possible.
- Changes arose as training was needed for new weapons, such as muskets and cannon, and armies became more professional.
- Artillery trains slowly increased in size and importance and field artillery improved.

Battlefield roles

Cavalry continued its specialist role, but was no longer the decisive force in battle.

- It harassed the enemy with **pistols** and skirmished with enemy cavalry.
- The mounted charge was little used until it re-emerged during the English Civil Wars.
- **Dragoons** (mounted infantry) took on the role of the mounted archer until 1700.

Infantry became dominant as result of new weapons and tactics, and was divided into two key roles:

- **musketeers** gradually replaced archers
- armoured **pikemen** increasingly fought in large, disciplined squares or columns.

The role of government

Rulers increasingly used taxes to pay for hiring soldiers. The use of mercenaries also increased. Soldiers owed loyalty to the mercenary leader who recruited them, as they had to their feudal lord previously.

Standing armies

A **standing army** is a permanent force of full-time, professional soldiers. They gave rulers a lot of power and ensured that troops were well trained.

Before the Civil War, England did not have a standing army. Parliament controlled taxes, and a standing army was very expensive. Parliament also feared a standing army would make the king too powerful. However, during the Civil War, Parliament set up a standing army to fight the king.

Strategy and tactics

Pikemen could stop a cavalry charge, but were easy targets. Pikemen and musketeers had to act together to be effective.

It took a lot of training to change formations at need. Under cavalry attack, pikemen formed a square around the musketeers. By 1600, squares were replaced by lines of musketeers that provided a volley of fire.

Oliver Cromwell

Cromwell was key in setting up the New Model Army and became the head of its cavalry. Its command structure was not traditional.

Cromwell emphasised the importance of ability and previous battlefield success over social status. The cavalry he recruited and trained formed the New Model Army's cavalry.

Timeline

Development of a standing army

1639–40 Limitations in English militia exposed during Scottish occupation of the North of England.

1645 Parliament forms the New Model Army, a professional national army, to win the Civil War.

1648 Second Civil War leads to Oliver Cromwell becoming Protector of England. Army retained.

1660–88 Return of the king. Army continues to be retained due to the constant threat of war.

1688 onwards Army 'renewed' each year to maintain principle of no standing army.

Between 1645 and 1660, the New Model Army interfered in politics and government. After 1660, the memory of this meant that it took about a century to agree to formalise a standing army (in 1775).

Now try this

Draw up a table of **three** changes and **three** examples of continuity in warfare, in the period c1500–c1700.

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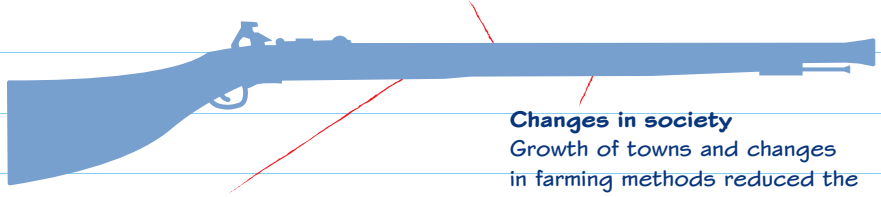
Developments in weaponry

The period c1500–c1700 saw big changes in weaponry. Pikes, muskets, pistols and cannon became the decisive weapons in most battles. These new weapons led to changes in battle tactics too.

Rise of the musket

Firearms were developed during the 1400s. By 1550, the musket began replacing the longbow. The musket was slow and unwieldy, so why did it replace the dominant longbow?

Developments in science and technology
New high-carbon steel armour was mostly arrow proof but armour could be pierced by muskets. Mass production of bullets meant they were available to issue to any soldier. You could store thousands in a barrel, unlike arrows, which were expensive and highly crafted.



Changes in thinking
Reports of musketeers defeating pikemen in battle led to changes in tactics.

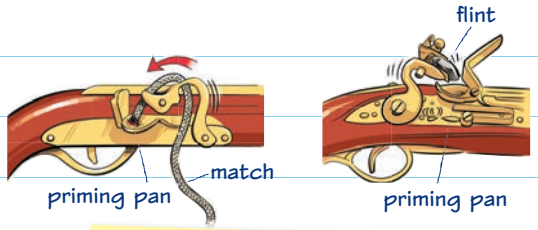
Changes in society
Growth of towns and changes in farming methods reduced the number of archers able to train. It took years of practice to make a successful bowman; not so with the musket, which took days.

Henry VIII (1509–47) received a battle report outlining the success of German muskets against Swiss pikemen, previously unbeatable in European warfare. This led to an increase in his use of firearms.

Pistols and dragoons

In the 1540s, the **wheel-lock pistol** was developed: a smaller firearm, suitable for use by cavalry. Pistols and swords replaced the lances of medieval knights and armour was gradually abandoned as improved firepower made it redundant.

Cavalry rode close to the enemy, firing in complex manoeuvres before withdrawing to reload. Use of the charge declined. Dragoons armed with arquebuses or smaller muskets were used to skirmish and threaten an enemy's flanks.



Matchlock and flintlock mechanisms



The socket bayonet fitted outside the barrel, allowing the musket still to fire

Flintlock and bayonet

By the 1690s, the **flintlock mechanism** replaced the matchlock musket. The matchlock was:

- dangerous near gunpowder due to its exposed match flame
- unreliable in rain as the match could go out
- visible at night due to the exposed glow.

In the 1660s, the **plug bayonet** emerged. By 1705, the pike had been replaced with the **socket bayonet**: converting musketeers into mêlée combatants so troops no longer needed to be split into two separate roles and wasted.

New technology and the cannon

The rising power of cannon was weakened:

- New engineering methods led to stronger defensive walls as protection.
- From the 1530s, England spent vast sums constructing new style defences.
- Low, thick, earth-filled walls met blows from cannon balls without shattering.
- Walls were angled, so cannon balls would bounce off without damaging them.
- Bastions provided defensive positions for the return of cannon fire.

Now try this

Explain the impact of **two** developments in weaponry in the period c1500–c1700.

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The experience of war

In this period, the **New Model Army** (NMA) saw increasing professionalism in the army, with a significant impact on recruitment and training. The Civil Wars also directly affected local civilians.

Continuity in recruitment

Until 1645, the Tudor system of recruitment continued, based on the Statute of Winchester.

- All men aged 16 to 60 had to serve in their local area. They were **pressed** (forced into serving).
- Men provided their own weapons and **general musters** were held every couple of years for inspection and training.
- The king appointed Lords Lieutenant to command each county's militia.

In 1573, Trained Bands were set up from the local militia and met monthly for training by **Muster Masters**.

In the 1580s, Muster Masters were professional soldiers. Through the 1590s, they were replaced by local gentlemen, who resented taking orders from 'lowly' professionals.

Changes in training

New weapons and tactics required discipline and training: hundreds of men needed to act as one, while under fire. Early muskets were complicated to load and fire, and musketeers were trained to fight in rows or ranks. They also had to learn to work together with the pikemen.

Change: The New Model Army

In 1645, parliament raised a national volunteer army, with regular pay, that allowed successful soldiers to be promoted to command positions.

Cavalry

- 6600 cavalry were raised from existing forces; a well-trained and disciplined force that remained under control in battle.
- They received 24 pence a day but had to provide for themselves.
- They were instrumental in victory, as they held together to charge and finish an attack.
- 1000 dragoons were also raised from existing forces.

Infantry

- 14 400 infantrymen were raised, half from existing forces and half pressed.
- They received 8 pence a day, the same as a labourer.
- During 1645, desertion rates were high and 14 500 men were pressed, yet the army remained under strength.

After the Civil Wars, the volunteer army continued as a normal part of society.

The NMA introduced the uniform red coat which later became the colour used by the British army; previously each regiment wore the colour of their colonel. This caused confusion on the battlefield. The lack of a clear uniform also made it easier for soldiers to desert.

Impact of warfare on civilians

Before the Civil Wars	During the Civil Wars
• Merchant ships were requisitioned for the navy to transport soldiers and supplies. • Requisition of horses and supplies disrupted businesses and led to shortages. • Taxes increased and trade reduced, so civilians faced higher taxes and lower earnings, together with rising prices. • Damage to civilian property was generally limited to the Scottish borders, and coastal regions, where there was fighting.	• Requisitioning of ships and supplies continued. • Plunder (stealing from civilians) was very common, due to lack of pay and supplies. • Free quarter – armies forced communities to feed and house troops, leaving an IOU behind. • Both sides spent a lot and collected high taxes from the areas they controlled. • Armies could ruin crops, but sieges caused even more damage. At least 55 000 people were made homeless during the Civil Wars and many castles were partially destroyed.

Now try this

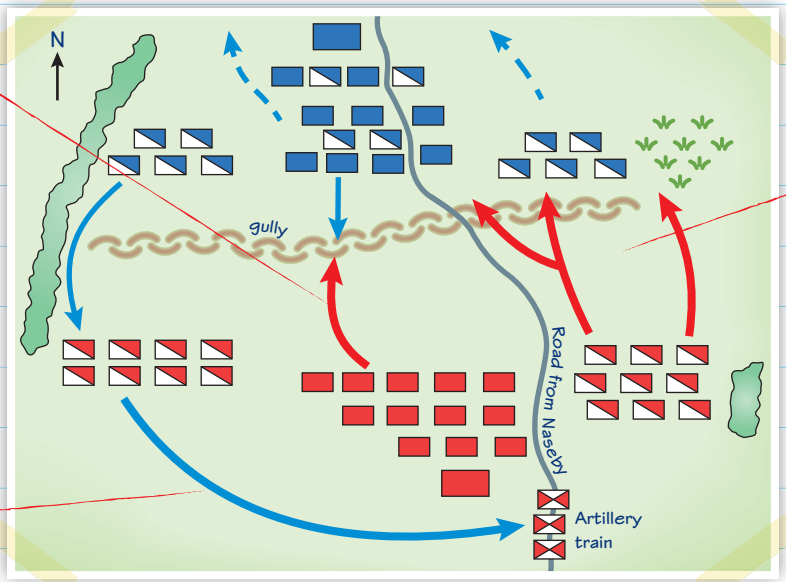
Describe **three** ways in which civilians were affected by war in the period c1500–c1700.

Copyrighted Material

The Battle of Naseby, 1645

Case study

The Battle of Naseby in 1645 was a turning point in the English Civil Wars. The New Model Army benefited from the decisive and inspirational leadership of Fairfax and Cromwell.



Infantry engage in the centre, Royalists have the edge.

Infantry
Cavalry
Artillery
Red = Parliamentarian (17 000 troops)
Blue = Royalist (12 500 troops)

Parliamentary cavalry, under Cromwell, beat back the Royalists but keep discipline to engage infantry flank and tip the balance.

Royalist cavalry on west flank drive off the Parliamentarians and attack artillery train.

Naseby demonstrated the strength of the NMA compared to the Royalist army.

Choice and use of battleground

The Parliamentarians positioned themselves on one side of a valley. Fairfax made good use of the terrain.

- The centre, Broad Moor, was a large, open expanse of common land, ideal for cavalry.
- His western flank was protected by a hedgerow, his eastern flank by ground that was hard to cross.
- He kept his men behind a ridge, out of sight of the enemy, to help morale.
- Their high position gave a tactical advantage as Prince Rupert was unwilling to engage musket and artillery fire head on.

Cromwell persuaded Fairfax to advance into a weaker position to tempt the Royalists into attacking up the slope.

The role of training and tactics

1. The NMA advance over the ridge to engage the Royalists as they climb the slope.
2. Prince Rupert's Royalist cavalry drive off their foes, but lose discipline and raid the baggage train for plunder.
3. The NMA infantry hold the centre, losing ground, as their frontline breaks.
4. The NMA cavalry drive off their foes, but Cromwell keeps them under control.
5. Cromwell's cavalry attack the flanks and rear of the Royalist infantry, while Fairfax counterattacks at the centre. The Royalists break.
6. Cromwell's cavalry pursues the remaining Royalist cavalry, destroying them.

Fairfax and Cromwell

- **Fairfax**: was an inspirational general who fought alongside his men. He led the infantry in the counterattack at the centre, gaining a vital advantage.
- **Cromwell**: believed NMA officers should be the best soldiers. He had recruited and trained the best cavalry in the war.

King Charles and Prince Rupert

- They underestimated the enemy, believing they could win though outnumbered.
- They wanted a speedy victory before the NMA could join the Scots, so they did not wait for reinforcements before fighting.
- Prince Rupert wasted his advantage on the west; he lacked control of his cavalry.

Now try this

Draw a mind map showing the reasons why the New Model Army won the Battle of Naseby. Think about leadership, strategy and resources.

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Continuity and change in the army

The period c1700–c1850 saw little change in warfare. However, in the period c1850–c1900 the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the British Empire changed the scale and style of warfare.

Composition

c1700–c1850: continuity	c1850–c1900: change
• A permanent standing army of around 50 000 men, more in times of war. • The decline of cavalry continued, now only about 20 per cent of the army. • Artillery continued to form about 5 per cent.	• The growth of the British Empire meant more soldiers were needed: numbers reached 250 000 by 1899. • Governments were more involved in organising the army size and finances, both of which rose dramatically.

Specialisation and professionalisation

In this period, the armed forces were transformed into a professional organisation with a fixed term of enlistment.

c1700	c1900
• Many soldiers still pressed into service. • Marched or rode in bright uniform. • Infantry all armed with muskets and bayonets. • Support came from heavy, immobile cannon.	• Command structures more clearly defined, with specialist regiments and more effective leadership structures. • Wore camouflaged brown or grey uniforms. • Transported to battle in steamships or trains. • New weapons, such as rifles and machine guns, led to specialised roles within the infantry. • Long-distance artillery and light field artillery bombarded the enemy, using different skills.

Continuity on the battlefield

Roles	Tactics
• **Cavalry**: still important for reconnaissance and harassing the enemy, though new weapons, such as rifles and machine guns, left them vulnerable. • **Infantry**: still the decisive factor in battle. • **Infantry**: the 'Brown Bess' musket used from 1715 to around 1850.	• **Cavalry**: officers determined to keep traditional cavalry forces, seeing change as an attack on privilege – showing the importance of social attitudes. • **Infantry**: still fought in lines, columns and squares. • **Infantry**: loading times improved – four-deep lines replaced with longer two-deep lines, firing a **volley** every 20 seconds. • **Infantry**: still sent to face overwhelming firepower between 1850 and 1900; generals refused to accept the changing situation, relying on old ideas about how to fight.

Change: From around 1760, **rhythmic marching** to the drum helped infantry move and change formation quickly – generals like Wellington could use maneuvering as a tactic.

Training in this period

Various efforts were made to improve training, but had little impact due to social attitudes. Officers thought they knew best and that weapons training and tactics were easy – they resented interference. As a result, very little improvement had taken place by 1850.

Now try this

1 Name **two** ways in which the army changed in this period and explain why this occurred.

2 Name **two** ways in which the army stayed the same and explain why this was the case.

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Changes in weaponry

Improvements in science, technology and industry brought about changes in weaponry and warfare in this period. These changes led to new approaches to battle strategy and tactics.

The use of rifles and bullets

Rifles	Invented in the 16th century; from 1850 technological improvements made them more effective and practical.
Minié bullets	Invented in 1847, these small bullets expanded within the barrel, making loading easier.
Conical bullets	More aerodynamic, these increased the range of rifles.
Percussion bullets	Made loading easier and rifles more reliable by ending their reliance on powder and flint.
Breech-loading	Made reloading four times quicker than with muskets.
Magazines	Allowed several bullets to be loaded at once.

Impact on tactics and formation

At the Battle of Waterloo, 1815, the British infantry formed squares to repel the enemy. By the Crimean War, 1853–56, the musket had been replaced by percussion rifles. Its increased range and accuracy meant a new defence was needed.

Development of trench warfare

In the Crimean War, systems of **trenches** gave protection against the enemy fire. Troops and supplies could move near to the front line without being exposed.

Defending forces chose the protection of the trench over mobility. The power of defensive fire was greater than that of an attacking force.

Machine guns

Small cannon-like guns, called Gatling guns, had several small revolving barrels and fired as many as 150 bullets a minute. Smaller, more practical machine guns like the Maxim were in use by the 1880s and could be moved by one man. Machine guns were introduced to the British army in 1889, but had most inpact after 1900.

Field guns and heavy artillery

Developments in technology and industry led to improvements in artillery.

Light field artillery (field guns):

- John 'Iron-Mad' Wilkinson made thinner and lighter cannon barrels.
- Experiments with bronze made cannon even lighter, with lighter carriages.
- This meant lighter, horse-drawn field guns could be used across the battlefield and moved quickly.
- By 1890, field guns were designed so they recoiled. This made firing quicker and easier.

Heavy artillery:

- Steel cannon were stronger than bronze.
- Breech-loading cannon reloaded five times faster than previous muzzle-loading cannon.
- Cannon with rifled barrels increased the range from hundreds of metres to 5 km.
- By 1900, percussion shells filled with chemicals that exploded the shell were in use.
- From the 1890s, smokeless powder stopped smoke affecting aim or revealing position.

Factors affecting change

Spiralling change: when one country improved weaponry, others would race to go one better.

Social attitudes: conservatism, fear and cost.

Political attitudes: the upheaval of the French Revolution made governments uneasy about change.

Industrialisation: improvements in science, technology and industry.

Individuals: Wellington resisted change as a threat to his social class; inventors such as Wilkinson.

Now try this

Explain how the development of **one** weapon impacted on war in this period.

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Industrialisation

In the period c1850–c1900, industrialisation had a significant impact on warfare, rapidly changing transport and weaponry. Some key individuals also played a part in this rapid change.

Steam-powered transport

Changes in transport enabled armies to operate further from home.

Steam trains:

- Steam railways enabled troops to move 15 times faster than they could on foot.
- Supplies could be moved at 20 mph rather than the 10 miles a day in wagons.
- The first military railway was laid by the British at Balaclava in the Crimea.

Steamships:

- Steamships with screw propellers sailed twice as fast as sailing ships.
- Requisitioned steamships took less than three weeks to ship men and supplies to the Crimea, where they were used in warfare for the first time.

Steamships were used in warfare for the first time in the Crimean War. Specialised coastal attack craft and new defensive techniques, like iron clad exteriors, were developed.

Science

1. The development of fulminate of mercury provided the explosive that led to percussion bullets.
2. The invention of the chemical nitroglycerine led to the development of smokeless gunpowder.

Old and new technology

The period after 1850 saw new and old technology being used at the same time: horses were still used alongside new steam trains and ships; the 'Brown Bess' musket was used alongside newer rifles.

Communications

The electric telegraph had a significant impact on communication. Governments and army staff used the telegraph to contact generals on campaign. Newspaper reporters relied on telegraph information to write their reports.

In 1854, the British started a Military Telegraph detachment within the Royal Engineers. They built and operated the first field telegraph: a 24-mile network connected eight telegraph stations across the Crimean battlefront.

Mass production

By the 1850s, metal production had improved, making plenty of iron and steel available at low cost. The introduction of factory production lines led to the mass production of identical parts. These developments enabled the government to equip the whole army with standardised, reliable weaponry at a fraction of the cost.

Technology and the role of the individual

Timeline

1774 John Wilkinson patented a more accurate boring method for creating lighter cannon barrels.

1856 Henry Bessemer patented a method of mass-producing steel cheaply, reducing the cost from £60 to £7 per ton.

1857 George Armstrong pioneered the breech-loading, rifled 'Armstrong gun' used throughout the British army.

1884 Hiram Maxim developed the Maxim machine gun, which used the firing recoil to reload the firing chamber, allowing a belt of 500 bullets to be fired before reloading.

Now try this

Draw a mind map to show how industrialisation influenced warfare in the period c1850–c1900.

Copyrighted Material

Reform in recruitment and training

There were a few improvements in training and recruitment in the period c1700–c1850. However, between c1850 and c1900, the government and individuals both played a role in speeding up changes.

Recruitment problems

In 1700, Britain had a standing army. The terms of service remained unchanged.

- **Officers and promotion:** The quality of officers was unreliable because commissions were linked to social status rather than merit. High ranks were only given to nobility.
- **Other ranks:** These involved short enlistments of 8–12 years or life (usually 21 years). Incentives included pay, bounties for life service, and tavern recruitment.
- **Numbers and discipline:** The army still found it difficult to recruit enough men. In wartime, criminals and debtors were let out of prison if they agreed to serve. The quality of recruits was low and officers relied on hard disciplinary methods to keep control.

Gladstone and Cardwell

In 1868, William Gladstone's government argued for army reform. Gladstone was prepared to pass laws to enforce modernisation.

He appointed, as Secretary of State for War, Edward Cardwell, who forced through a series of reforms against strong opposition from the army.

Regularisation

Cardwell's **1871 Regularisation of the Forces Act** reorganised regiments into regions, with local barracks for accommodation.

- Every regiment had two 'linked' battalions – one serving at home and one abroad.
- Each regiment's third battalion was made up of local militia.

Additionally, rations were improved, and in 1881 branding and flogging were abolished.

Methods of recruitment

1. **Colonels' regiments:** To avoid unrest, officers were paid to set up and equip new regiments. Regiments were created as cheaply as possible in order to make a profit.
2. **1757 Militia Act:** An overhaul of the Assize of Arms, men aged 18–50 were selected from every parish to serve in the local militia for five years.

Low pay for officers, despite the high costs of training, accommodation and uniforms, meant that there was little change in the social background of officers by 1900.

Recruiting officers ignored age and physical fitness tests to get enough recruits. In the Boer War in 1899, many recruits were underfed and physically weak.

Professionalisation

With the **1870 Army Act**, Cardwell professionalised the army, ensuring a constant supply of trained soldiers.

- Lower ranks enlisted for 12 years: six in the army and six as a reserve soldier.
- Reserves were paid a daily rate and retrained each year.
- After 12 years, soldiers could resign or sign up for another 12 years plus a pension.

Improved training after 1850

- By the 1860s, more officers came into the army via the Royal Military College (RMC) at Sandhurst.
- Artillery and engineering officers trained at the Woolwich Royal Military Academy from 1741.
- The Senior Department of the RMC trained existing officers.
- In 1871, the sale of commissions ended: promotion depended on merit alone.
- Military schools opened at Hythe (1853) and Shoeburyness (1859) to train weapons instructors.

Now try this

Make a table summarising the improvements in recruitment and training in this period.

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Civilian experience of war

The rising cost and scale of warfare increased the impact of war on civilians. But technology also made the reality of war clear, which affected social attitudes like never before.

Recruitment

Conditions in the army were poor at home and far worse abroad. For most of this period, the army was under strength due to a lack of recruits and desertion.

Pay was less than that of a labourer, and had to pay for a soldier's food, accommodation (in peace time) and equipment.

Between 1700 and 1800, there were no army barracks for soldiers to stay in. As the size of the army grew, towns and cities increasingly met problems, with large numbers of soldiers causing disturbances and disrupting trade.

The 1757 Militia Act was deeply resented and provoked riots when rumours suggested that militiamen might have to serve abroad.

Requisitioning and taxation

1. In 1700, the army relied upon requisitioning wagons and animals from civilians for transportation. It had no transport of its own. Ships were often requisitioned during wartime due to the cost of building them.
2. The cost of the army increased from about £1 million in 1700 to about £8 million in the mid-18th century. However, the burden caused by the extra cost was relatively small as the population grew and the standard of living rose. In wartime, taxes rose considerably: the wars against France, 1793–1815 cost around £25 million a year.

See page 14 for more on the Militia Act of 1757.

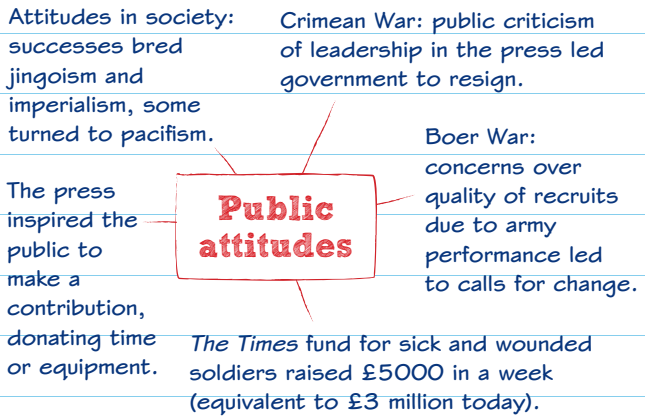
Impact of newspaper reporting

In 1815, *The Times* sold 5000 copies a day; by 1850, this had risen to 40 000. National papers and 500 new provincial papers were distributed across Britain by its steam train network.

William Howard Russell, of *The Times*, sent short dispatches by telegraph from the Crimea to London. It took only five hours, compared to 20 days by sea. He sent almost daily reports.

Newspapers sent 300 journalists to the Boer War (1899–1902). As a result, more information reached the public than ever before; in turn, public interested boosted newspaper sales.

Films showing reconstructions of the Boer War were shown in music halls – even those who couldn't read could now follow the news.



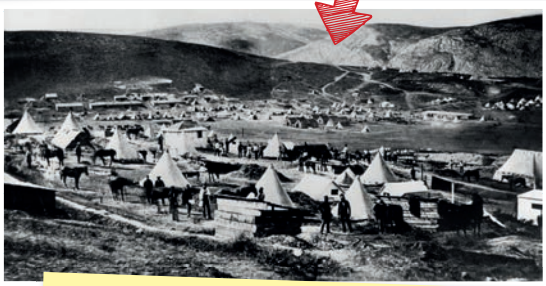
Developments in requisitioning

Requisitioning was unpopular and impractical away from Britain in distant lands.

- ✓ In 1855, the Land Transport Corps (later renamed the 'Military Train') was created to provide transport to the army.
- ✓ In 1888, the Army Service Corps took on the provision and transport of military supplies, with specially trained recruits.

Impact of war photography

Roger Fenton's photographs from the Crimean War (1853–56) brought war to life for the British public and had a big impact on public opinion. They showed first-hand the conditions soldiers encountered while serving their country.



Camp of the 5th Dragoon Guards in harsh winter conditions, by Roger Fenton

Now try this

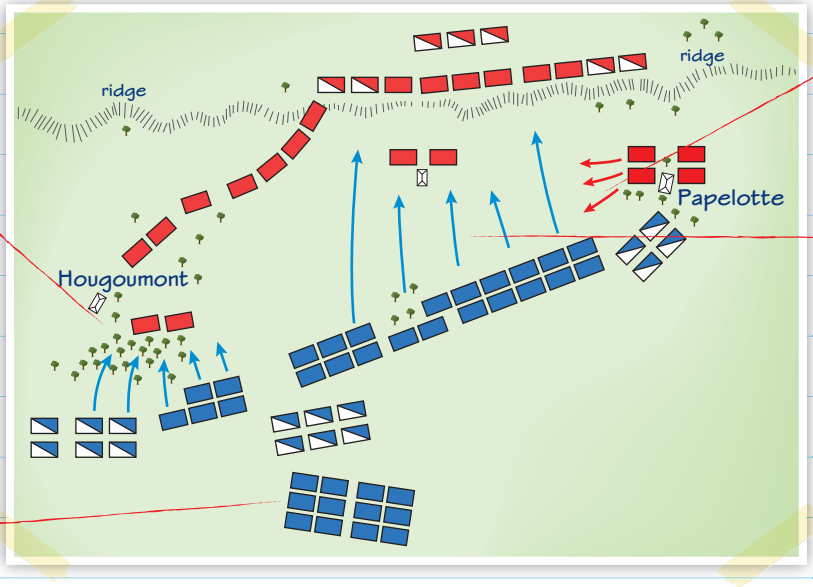
Explain **three** ways in which the impact of warfare on civilians increased in the period c1700–c1900.

Copyrighted Material

The Battle of Waterloo, 1815

Case study

The Battle of Waterloo saw the famous British commander, the Duke of Wellington, inflict Napoleon Bonaparte's final defeat. Wellington's leadership proved decisive.



The Battle of Waterloo, 1815, in present-day Belgium, included many features that were typical of warfare in this period.

Choice and use of battleground

Wellington chose a good defensive position.

- The battlefield was good for defence as it was only about three miles across.
- He deployed his men behind a ridge to reduce the damage done by enemy artillery.
- He set up two positions on the flanks of the ridge to interrupt the French attack.
- He concealed field artillery in the village of Papelotte on one flank.

See page 6 to compare this with the defensive preparations of Henry V at Agincourt.

The tactics and battle

1. Napoleon attacked with infantry columns, cavalry charges and heavy artillery. The columns were 200 men wide, and could punch through lines, but lacked firepower and were big targets.
2. Wellington used 20 infantry squares each 60 metres across, with muskets and bayonets to hold back the French cavalry. The field artillery and the wounded were protected inside the squares.
3. Wellington then sent in the cavalry and infantry in lines, firing devastating volleys.

The Duke of Wellington

Wellington's tactics were successful:

- He prepared to defend his position. He needed to avoid being beaten until he was reinforced by the Prussian army.
- He used squares for defence, with cannon on the corners and infantry firing in rotation – hard to break.
- He switched from defence to attack just in time and personally led his troops into the fiercest fighting. Cavalry were deployed behind the advance to discourage desertion.

Napoleon Boneparte

Napoleon made some important errors:

- Suffering with piles and irritable, he was unable to properly assess the battlefield.
- He used 33 000 men to slow the Prussians; they returned late, exhausted.
- He delayed the start as he believed the battlefield was too muddy for cavalry.
- His unsuccessful attack on Hougoumont tied up a quarter of his infantry.
- Late in the afternoon he launched another attack when he could have withdrawn.

Now try this

Explain how Wellington's strategy and tactics helped to secure British victory at the Battle of Waterloo.

Copyrighted Material

The Battle of Balaclava, 1854

Case study

The Battle of Balaclava was a Russian attack on a British-held port in the Crimea. The British fought off the Russians, but needlessly launched a costly cavalry charge.



The 'Charge of the Light Brigade' at Balaclava, 1854, was a miscommunication that led to many deaths. It showed the vulnerability of the cavalry when faced with defensive firepower.

Tactics weapons and supplies

- The 93rd Highlanders under Sir Colin Campbell, using Minié rifles, held a defensive position against an attacking force of Russian cavalry.
- The soldiers, in two-deep lines in their red tunics, formed a 'thin red streak, tipped with steel', outnumbered four to one.
- Their devastating volleys drove off the cavalry. The Heavy Brigade then moved in and defeated a large force of Russian cavalry.
- The use of old methods, like a cavalry charge, against a defensive line of infantry armed with the latest rifles led to a huge loss of life.
- The power of defence became a central characteristic of warfare in this period.

Charge of the Light Brigade

- Later in the battle, the Russians began to remove the allied cannon they had captured on the ridge.
- Lord Raglan ordered Lord Lucan to recapture the cannon, but the orders were vague and poorly explained. In the confusion, Lucan thought he was being asked to attack the Russian cannons.
- Despite the uncertainty, Lucan ordered Lord Cardigan's Light Brigade to charge the Russian cannon.
- Out of 673 men in the Light Brigade, 113 were killed, 134 wounded and most of the horses had to be destroyed, for no gain.

A military railway and steamships transported British supplies during the campaign.

Lord Raglan

Raglan's actions at Balaclava showed the disadvantages of commissions that were bought rather than earned. Raglan made many mistakes:

- He knew about the build-up of Russian forces but did not reinforce his defences.
- He was heavily criticised in the British press because of shortages of clothes and supplies.
- He delayed the attack on Sebastopol, giving the enemy time to build their defences.

See pages 6 and 16 to compare Raglan's leadership with that of Henry V and Wellington.

Now try this

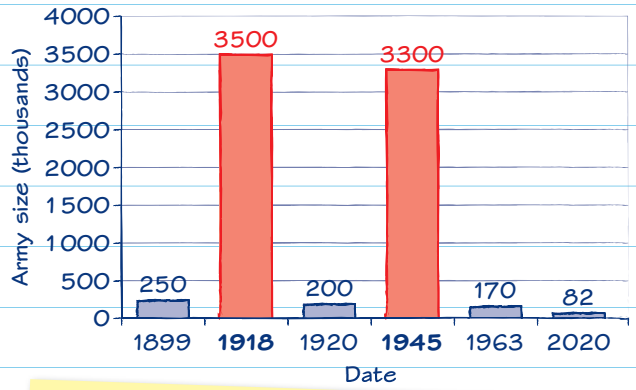
The Battle of Balaclava showed features of older and more modern warfare. List **two** older features and **two** newer features.

Copyrighted Material

The modern army

Warfare has changed dramatically since 1900 and this is shown in the composition of the army. New units have developed to deal with the changing nature of modern warfare and technology.

Change in the size of the army



Britain has a small professional army in peacetime: a similar size to that of 1840.

Logistics refers to the transportation of troops, supplies, ammunition and post.

Growth of logistics corps

Timeline

1900 Army logistics badly organised.

1914–18 Scale of the First World War led to improvements: the Army Service Corps.

1939–45 Second World War logistics were even more demanding.

1993 Royal Army Service Corps joined with other army corps: Royal Logistics Corps (RLC).

2003 15 per cent of the British army, the RLC organised logistics for the invasion of Iraq.

Changes in composition

1. **Infantry**: 65 per cent in 1914; 25 per cent in 2015; still the troops most likely to fight on the ground.
2. **Cavalry**: 10 per cent in 1914; 10 per cent in 2015 (**tanks**); tanks now lead the attack, and protect infantry and give mobile artillery support.
3. **Artillery**: 20 per cent in 1914; 10 per cent in 2015; bombarding the enemy is still key but aircraft and tanks now share this role; artillery is now more mobile, such as satellite-guided missiles.
4. **Specialist troops**: 5 per cent in 1914; 55 per cent in 2015. The Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Logistics Corps and Royal Medical Corps provide support to the front.

Specialised bomb disposal units

Early 1940, 25 army bomb disposal units were formed during the Second World War.

Late 1940, another 109 bomb disposal units were created: an essential part of modern war.

In 1972, a remote-controlled robot was developed that was able to move an explosive device.

In 2015, the British army had about 2000 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialists.

EOD units make munitions safe after wars are over. Most bombs are still made safe by disposal experts.

Changes in structure

Two reforms shaped the structure of the modern army:

Haldane's Reforms, 1908 Response to Boer War (1899–1902)	Professional army: 150 000	Territorial Force: national reserve of part-time soldiers; renamed Territorial Army in 1920.
Army 2020 An ongoing review	Professional army: 82 000	Territorial Army renamed as Army Reserve in 2013; 30 000 part-time soldiers.

Now try this

List **five** changes in the composition of the army from 1900 to the present.

Copyrighted Material

Impact of modern developments

Since about 1900, change in the nature of warfare has been ongoing and rapid. Weapons have changed as a result of new scientific discoveries, new technology, and the growth of industry.

Weaponry

1. **Machine guns:** were clumsy; needed teams of men to cool them down; very effective in defence; could fire 600 rounds a minute.
2. **Tanks:** by 1918, cavalry replaced by motor vehicles, particularly tanks, which were effectively mobile artillery.
3. **Chemical weapons:** 146 chemical attacks in First World War using chlorine, phosgene and mustard gas; most nations have now agreed not to use chemical weapons.
4. **Nuclear weapons:** In 1945, atom bomb revolutionised the power of bombing; in 1950s and 1960s, nuclear arms race between USA and USSR threatened 'Mutually Assured Destruction'.
5. **Aircraft:** British Flying Corps had 63 aircraft in 1914, 22 000 by 1918; played key role as mobile artillery, providing mobility and offence.

Transport

Developments in transport means that 'defence' became less important in war.

1. 1914: Germans moved troops by **train** for surprise attack; over two million men and 600 000 horses out-manoeuvre French and advance 300 km.
2. 1918: **motorised transport** introduced; British Army has over 55 000 trucks and 35 000 motorcycles.
3. 1940: **aircraft** parachute troops behind enemy lines; vehicles transport infantry quickly into areas seized by tanks, as with the German 'Blitzkrieg'.
4. 1944: **air support** important; allies create 'cab rank' system (aircraft always in sky), allowing infantry to call quick air strikes to weaken resistance.

Surveillance

From 1900, surveillance from aircraft was introduced. In 1957, the first artificial satellites allowed surveillance from space. Military satellites are used to:

- spot enemy forces and identify targets
- predict weather conditions
- photograph the impact of attacks
- provide communication systems.

Surveillance technology is now used to guide inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and bombs dropped from 'stealth' aircraft, fighter jets and drones. 'Smart' bombs are 10 times more accurate than conventional bombs.

RADAR (RAdio Detection And Ranging) was vital for Britain's victory in the Battle of Britain, 1940. It was used as part of an early warning system to detect enemy aircraft.

21st-century guerrilla warfare

Powerful states can use bombing and elite infantry to capture territory, but controlling it can be more difficult.

Weaker forces may use guerrilla warfare against occupying troops. Guerillas blend in with local civilians and use hit-and-run raids instead of open battles. Traditional weapons and tactics are much harder to use against them – as the West has found in Afghanistan and Iraq.

High-tech warfare

Computerised high-tech weapons are having a significant impact. Used to attack from thousands of kilometres away, they are followed by infantry. Troops are supported by tanks, jets, attack helicopters and mobile artillery. Battles are coordinated via radio communication and satellite surveillance.

Now try this

Choose **two** ways in which science and technology have impacted warfare since 1900. In each case, explain the impact.

Copyrighted Material

Modern recruitment and training

Recruitment reached an unprecedented scale during the World Wars, as 'total war' impacted civilian and soldier alike.

Changes in recruitment

1914–18, First World War

1914: thousands needed to replace casualties – appeal for volunteers.

1916: Military Service Act introduces conscription for unmarried men aged 18–41, and later married men.

1918: conscription ends.

1939–45, Second World War

1939: National Service Act reintroduces conscription.

1941: conscription also applies to men aged up to 51, and unmarried women aged 20–30.

1943: age limit for conscripted women increased to 51.

1960s

Return to permanent, volunteer standing army.

Other methods of recruitment

1. **Government propaganda** encouraged men to **enlist** (join up), but the scale of casualties put off recruits.
2. **PALs Battalions** were made up of local volunteers from the same community.
3. **National service** (introduced in 1948) meant all men aged 17–21 had to complete 18 months' military training and service, followed by four years in the Reserves.

Conscription is where people **have to** serve in the armed forces, rather than volunteering.

Recruitment of women

Women were recruited into the forces for the first time during the World Wars.

Timeline

1916 Women worked as nurses in Voluntary Aid Detachments behind the front line.

1917–18 Women were recruited into the armed forces in the Auxiliary Corps, Women's Royal Naval Service and the Women's Air Force.

1941 Unmarried women aged 20–30 could be conscripted. The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) had one million civilian members.

1944 212 000 women served in a range of uniformed military-based roles.

1992 Women were integrated into 'male' units.

The loss of life in the World Wars was extraordinary:
- 1914–18 – c10 million combatants
- 1939–45 – c15 million combatants; c45 million civilians.

A professional army

Britain has developed a regular, professional army, which currently has about 85 000 combatants. Including the RAF and the Royal Navy, the total permanent, full-time force is about 150 000 people.

- Pay and conditions match other careers.
- High-tech equipment means a high level of training and skill.
- Recruits sign up for at least four years. Basic training lasts 14 weeks. Training for specialist units takes longer.
- Over 80 per cent of officers join as graduates and train for about a year.
- The Territorial Army (or Army Reserves) provides a trained reserve force.

'Total war'

The developments in scale and weaponry led to wars of attrition, where an enemy is worn down until it runs out of manpower and resources. This gave rise to 'total warfare' where civilians were attacked as well as enemy soldiers.

Now try this

List **three** ways (each) in which recruitment and training has changed between 1900 and the present.