Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer the questions below **WITHOUT READING THE TEXT**, use *only scanning* technique to complete this exercise.

There will be different types of questions presented.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The Battle of Britain and the narrow victory of the Royal Air Force over the invading German Luftwaffe made a pivotal difference to Allied victory in World War II. Not merely a single battle, the Battle of Britain began with what Hitler deemed to be Eagle Day on 13 August 1940. It lasted until his decision to postpone – but in reality to cancel – Sealion on 17 September. This latter operation would have been the land and sea invasion of Britain due for the autumn. The aerial battles between fighter pilots over southeast England enabled the British Isles to survive and fight another day. Not surprisingly, Churchill, the great orator, likened the brave pilots – many of whom were Polish or Canadian as well as British – to 'the few'. Here his reference is to the heroic soldiers in medieval France under Henry V as interpreted by Shakespeare. And certainly, the sheer survival at all of the RAF, heavily denuded of resources before 1939, was remarkable, even if victory was by a hairsbreadth. However, it should be added that while the RAF won, making up for the ignominious failure of the army in France, it was the overwhelming power at sea of the Royal Navy, following the apparent defeat in Norway earlier in the year, that made it necessary for Hitler to win air superiority before conquering a virtually defenseless Britain. The soldiers of 'Dad's Army' would, despite their courage, have been no match for a blitzkrieg invasion. The loss of the Battle of Britain meant that Hitler had, in effect, failed to win both sea and air, each one a necessity in invading an island. Britain therefore survived. The strategic and political implication of that is the true achievement of the battle. The fact that Churchill was able to keep Britain fighting until the USA entered the war made all the difference to British defeat and victory. The United Kingdom was able to be an unsinkable battleship upon which US troops could land, thereby ensuring that Hitler would have to fight a two-front war: against the British and Americans in the West and Stalin in the East. This alone guaranteed his defeat once he had failed to beat the USSR in 1941 and was only possible because Britain was free and unconquered. Had the Americans not had their British launch base in 1944 or indeed at any other time in the war, D-Day and the fall of Germany would have been infinitely more difficult, if not actually impossible. All this was due to the sliver of British victory in August to September 1940, as well as to the fact that Britain had, in Churchill, a prime minister for whom surrender was not a viable option. The few saved not just their country but possibly western democracy itself.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

Who gave the name on the day of the eagle to the battle of Great Britain?

A. Hitler
B. Churchill
C. Shakespeare
D. Stalin

When was the day of the eagle?

A. December 12nd, 1845
B. August 13rd, 1940
C. October 22nd, 1947
D. September 4th, 1875

Who was Churchill?

A. He was a writer.
B. He was a great doctor.
C. He was a great orator.
D. He was a bad orator.

Great Britain was:

A. dirty and awful
B. free and undefeated
C. amazing and beautiful
D. free and awful

When was the little British victory?

A. April to December, 1940.
B. August to September, 1940.
C. February to march, 1945.
D. September to October, 1945.

The Battle of Britain and the narrow victory of the Royal Air Force over the invading German Luftwaffe made a pivotal difference to Allied victory in World War II.

A. False
B. True

LIVEWORKSHEETS