

"We Shall Never Surrender" - House of Commons speech, June 4, 1940

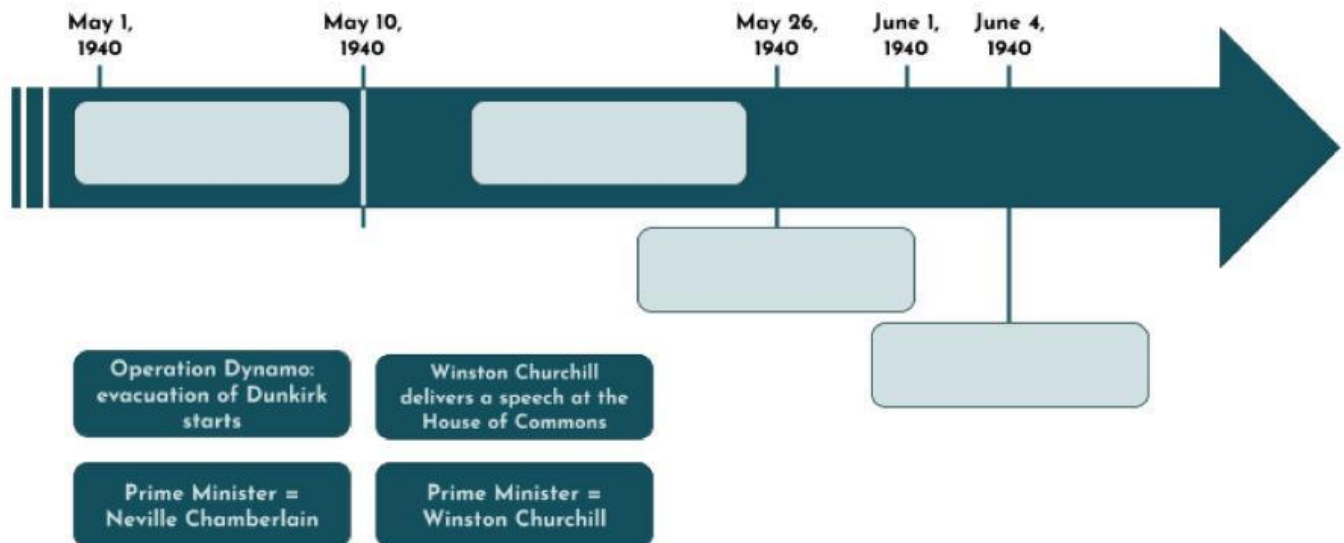
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT

Part 1: Introduction

- Read the introduction and link the words to their synonym, definition or translation.

galvanised	•	•	gave courage
endure	•	•	elected House of the British Parliament
the outset	•	•	excited into taking action
House of Commons	•	•	the beginning
heartened	•	•	experience

- Drag the elements to complete the timeline:



- Fill in the chart:

26,000	338,000	45,000
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Number of men the British planned to evacuate from Dunkirk:	
Number of allied soldiers the British eventually evacuated from Dunkirk:	
Number of French soldiers the British eventually evacuated from Dunkirk:	

- Operation Dynamo was...

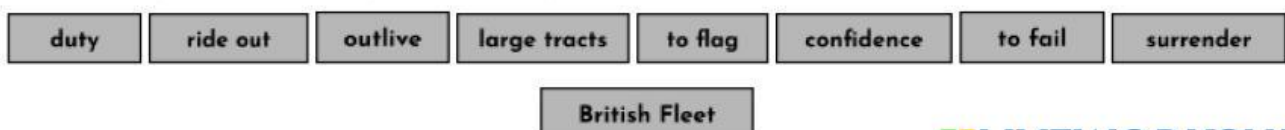
☐ a success ☐ a failure

Part 2: The speech

- Read paragraph 1: what risk(s) is Churchill the People on?

☐ serious raids ☐ being over confident ☐ invasion

- Read paragraph 2 and drag the following elements into the chart:



faiblir		surmonter		le devoir	
confiance		survivre à		se rendre	
échouer		la flotte britannique		une grande partie	

➤ Tick the right answers:

On June 4, 1940, France...

- ☐ has already surrendered ☐ is about to surrender ☐ is on the verge of victory

Churchill encourages the British to go on fighting....

- ☐ alongside the French ☐ to defend their territory ☐ in the rest of the world
☐ if the French surrender ☐ even if it means perishing ☐ even if Britain is invaded

What strategy does Churchill use to galvanise the Parliament and the British people?

- ☐ Lie to make them believe that they are safe on their island.
☐ Tell them the truth and explain the risks of invasion.

What concept lies behind this conception of war?

- ☐ Totalitarianism ☐ Total war ☐ Extremism

➤ Link the extracts from the speech to the right box corresponding to Churchill's messages:

if all do their duty	•	Every single man and woman is needed	•	the menace of tyranny
if necessary for years	•		• That is the will of Parliament and the nation	
British Empire and the French Republic, linked together	•	Nazi Germany is incompatible with democracy	•	will defend to the death their native soil
large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall	•	Britain needs allies but is ready to fight alone	•	odious apparatus of Nazi rule
we shall not flag or fail	•	Britain and the British Empire shall prevail	•	fall into the grip of the Gestapo
if necessary alone	•	It will be a very hard fight and total war	•	our Empire beyond the seas would carry on the struggle
subjugated and starving	•		• we shall fight on the beaches [...] in the hills	

➤ Apart from galvanising his People, Churchill also has international messages: he wants to...

- ☐ Scare the Germans away ☐ Convince the French not to surrender
☐ Appeal to the Americans ☐ Appeal to the British colonies

➤ Link the figures of speech Churchill uses to be more convincing to the examples

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Anaphora and enumeration | • | • "if all do their duty [...] are made" |
| Metaphor | • | • "ride out the storm of war" |
| | | • "we shall fight..." |