

# CAUSES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR INTERACTIVE

**Question: Who or what was responsible for causing the Second World War?**  
**[10 marks]**

## WRITING FRAME

Begin by planning your essay. The ideas below will help you, but add your own knowledge as well.

**Introduction** – make an opening statement. You could:

- Briefly describe the different interpretations historians have for what caused the Second World War.
- Briefly outline the situation in the 1920s that made another world war likely.

### **Main body**

Write in paragraphs and deal with a different cause in each one. Don't forget to explain the reasons for the Second World War and not just describe what happened.

- **Hitler's foreign policy aims and actions.** How did these make war more likely? Also write about how Hitler tried to achieve his aims and why this brought him into conflict with other countries.
- **Appeasement.** What was appeasement, why was it followed and why people think that it was an important cause of the war?
- **Aggressive actions of other dictators.** Describe the actions of Italy and Japan and why did these help cause the Second World War?
- **Weakness of the League of Nations.** Why did the League fail and what were the consequences?
- **Alliances and agreements.** What alliances were signed and how did these help strengthen the dictators and cause the war?

**Conclusion** – make a brief statement that sums up your answer. You could mention the views of historians here.

Could the war have been avoided? What was the most important cause?