LITHERLAND HIGH SCHOOL

LIVO CATCH-UP 10
Year 9 – History

WAR
LIVERPOOL
SPIES
D-DAY

You have missed some lessons. Don't worry – this will give you essential knowledge you need to join back in.

1 WHAT IS THE BLITZ?

The **Blitz** was a German bombing campaign on British cities during WW2 (1940–1941).

Liverpool was heavily targeted because it was a key port, with docks, industry and shipbuilding.

Areas such as Bootle and Litherland were devastated, with around 80% of houses damaged and many local sites destroyed.



2 WHY WAS LIVERPOOL TARGETED?

- Important port for shipping and supplies.
- Shipbuilding and industry supported the war effort.
- Rail links and factories.
- The Germans wanted to damage Britain's economy and morale.
- Local areas such as Bootle and Litherland had key docks, factories and aircraft production.



3 KEY EVENTS AND PLACES

- **Blitz:** 1940–1941
- Liverpool, Bootle and Litherland were heavily bombed.
- Many homes, schools and factories were destroyed.
- Key sites included docks, shipyards and oil storage.
- Civilians faced air raid sirens, shelters and major disruption.
- The city showed resilience and came together to recover.

4 WAS THE BOMBING OF DRESDEN A WAR CRIME?

In 1945, the Allies bombed the German city of Dresden. The attack killed many civilians and destroyed large parts of the city.

Historians still debate whether it was a war crime.



Arguments FOR it being a war crime:

- Many civilians died.
- The city was not a major military target.
- The level of destruction was excessive.

Arguments AGAINST it being a war crime:

- Dresden was an important rail and communication centre.
- It supported the German war effort.
- It helped to bring the war to an end.

5 OPERATION MINCEMEAT

A British intelligence plan to fool Hitler. A dead man ('Major William Martin') was given false documents to make the Germans believe the Allies would invade Greece, not Sicily.

Key people:

- Major William Martin (fictional)
- British intelligence
- The plan was inspired by James Bond author Ian Fleming!



6 HOW DID OPERATION MINCEMEAT FOOL HITLER?

- The Germans found the body with false plans.
- They believed the Allied invasion would happen in Greece.
- This distracted German troops.
- It helped the Allies succeed at the real invasion of Sicily.
- It shows the importance of spies and deception during WW2.

7 OPERATION OVERLORD – D-DAY

D-Day took place on 6 June 1944. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history.

- The Allies landed on the beaches of France to free Europe from Nazi control.
- Soldiers faced heavy machine gun fire, mines and strong defences.
- Special equipment was used, including landing craft, tanks, DD tanks and PLUTO pipelines.
- The landings were carefully planned and involved thousands of troops.



8 IMPORTANT IDEAS

Bravery – civilians and soldiers showed great courage.

Resilience – Liverpool's people rebuilt after bombing.

Deception – Operation Mincemeat tricked the Germans.

Cost of war – many civilians died and cities were destroyed.

Turning points – D-Day helped to end the war in Europe.

9 KEY VOCABULARY

Blitz	the German bombing of British cities
Luftwaffe	German air force
Rescind	to cancel or withdraw
Bomb	an explosive device
War crime	a serious violation of the rules of war
Fire bomb	bombs that start large fires
Civilian	a non-military person
Military	the armed forces
Espionage	spying
Operation	a planned military activity
Corpse	a dead body
Target	a place chosen for attack
Allies	Britain, USA and others fighting Germany
PLUTO	pipeline to supply fuel
DD tanks	tanks that could swim
Assault	a large-scale attack

10 YOUR CATCH-UP 10

Answer these without looking back.

1. What was the Blitz?
2. Why was Liverpool targeted?
3. Name two local areas affected by the Blitz.
4. What percentage of houses were damaged in Bootle and Litherland?
5. Why do some people think the bombing of Dresden was a war crime?
6. Why do some people think the bombing of Dresden was not a war crime?
7. Who was Major William Martin?
8. What did Operation Mincemeat trick the Germans into believing?
9. When did D-Day take place?
10. Name two pieces of technology used in the D-Day landings.

FINAL CHECK

I now know:

- ☐ what the Blitz was and why Liverpool was targeted
- ☐ how the Blitz impacted Bootle and Litherland
- ☐ why the bombing of Dresden was controversial
- ☐ what Operation Mincemeat was and how it fooled Hitler
- ☐ the main events of D-Day and why it was important
- ☐ key vocabulary
- ☐ and I feel ready to rejoin the lesson!



NOW I'M READY TO REJOIN THE LESSON!