

Exercise 1

Looking at the Source

The point of this exercise is to get you thinking about how to analyse something you read. It's not enough to just write down what it says; you have to think about other things too! Go over the questions on the Source Analysis page in the WHAT TO ASK section.

What to Ask:

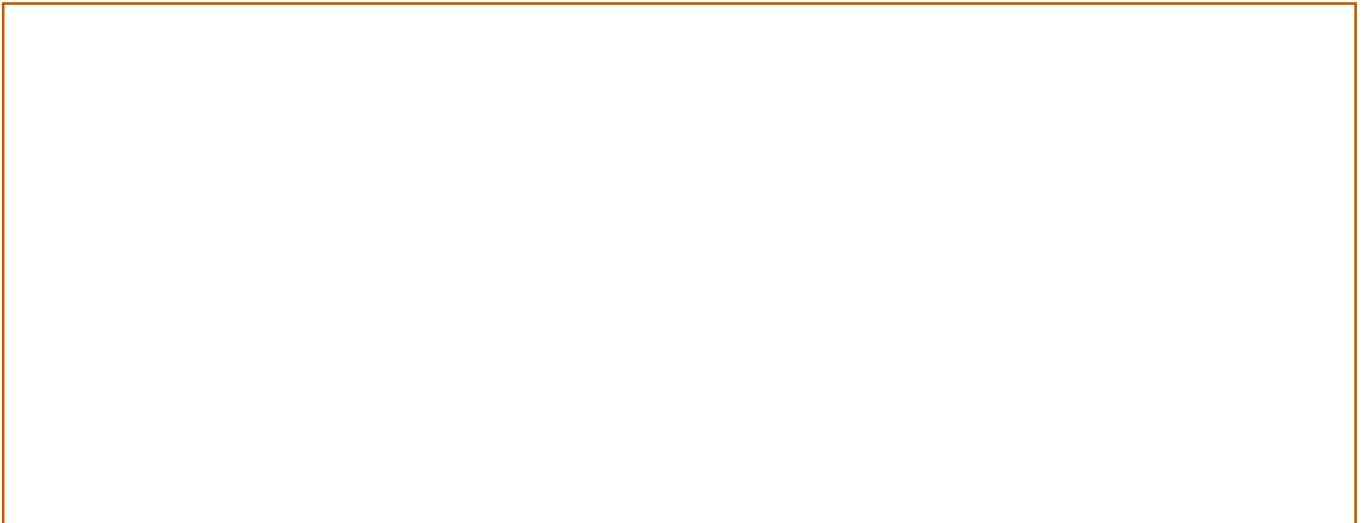
1. **Who is writing?** If you don't know their name, do you know what their job is? **What does this tell you about the source?**

2. How objective or impartial is the writer? To know this, look at the *title* of the newspaper. Is it likely to be positive about reform and social change, or negative? **Read the text all the way through.** Is it positive or negative? What does this tell you about how objective or trustworthy the source is?

3. When was it written? Is it reporting contemporary events, or did they happen a long time before the source was written? How might that effect the source?




4. What sort of source is it? Professional? Legal? Religious? Political? Informational? Is it just one thing, or does it have several uses?



5. Where does it come from? Why is it reporting these events – what's the connection?



6. Why was the source written?



7. What problems are there for a modern reader? Which parts of the source are hard to understand? What extra information might you need in order to fully understand what the source is telling you? How can you get this information?

