## **Resource sheet 2.1C (page 1)**

**Why did the Korean War become a forgotten war   
in Britain?**

**Grace Huxford extracts**

Match these extracts to the categories on page 2.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  The Korean War was largely viewed as a distant war on a little-known peninsula. | 6  The unclear ending of the conflict did little to integrate the war into British narratives of conflict. |
| 2  The Second World War continued to exert a powerful grasp over national memory for the remainder of the century. | 7  There was the feeling that Britain had only played a subsidiary role at best. In July 1953, Member of Parliament Walter Eliot summarized the situation: ‘This has been a great war in which we have not played the major part.’ |
| 3  In the early 1950s the image of the Second World War was solidifying as a morally unimpeachable conflict, where Britain had ‘stood alone’ in 1940 and eventually conquered tyranny. | 8  A Foreign Office document… noted that Korea was ‘remote’ and the threat posed by its instability was ‘indirect and not immediate’. |
| 4  British Servicemen often criticised or under-played their role in Korea, particularly when they compared it with their fathers’ experiences in the Second World War. | 9  The Korean War rarely featured on British television in the latter half of the twentieth century. Despite an outpouring of military-related programmes on British television, Korea has remained ‘forgotten’ across media forms. |
| 5  The Korean War, occurring immediately after the Second World War, coincided with a period of… identity formation in Britain, where certain ‘images’ or events were more attractive than others. Korea’s inability to fit within established narratives of British identity…is thus key to understanding its forgotten status. | 10  The Korean War could not be used to support [a] notion of national identity. Rather than an ‘underdog’ triumphing over unquestionable ‘evil’, Britain had been a junior partner in a conflict whose aims, methods and outcomes had been at best unclear. |

## **Resource sheet 2.1C (page 2)**

**Huxford’s explanations: sorting frame**

1. Look for these reasons in Extracts 1–10.
2. In column 2, summarise in short sentences or phrases what Huxford says about this reason and how or why it helped to make Korea a forgotten war.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason** | **Explanation** | **Extracts** |
| Timing of the war | Coming so soon after the Second World War, it was overshadowed. It was less important and casualties for Britain were so much lower. | 5, 10 |
| Geography and location of the war |  |  |
| Media interest in the war |  |  |
| Britain’s national identity and image |  |  |
| Veterans’ attitudes |  |  |
| Morality of the war |  |  |

## **Resource sheet 2.1C (page 3)**

Links between factors and importance of factors

Factors often work together. Explain some links in the table below. The first has been done for you.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reason  Geography | are linked because  the newspapers did not have reporters or photographers so far away | Reason  Media |
| Reason  Britain’s image | are linked because | Reason  Morality of the war |
| Reason  Veterans’ attitudes | Are linked because | Reason  Timing |
| Reason | Are linked because | Reason |

Which reason(s) do you think is/are the most important and why?

The most important reason why the war was a forgotten war was

**…………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

Because

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**