The Second World War:

**Evaluating Strategy**

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| **Battle or Campaign** | **Terms and Concepts** |
| **European Theatre** |
| Invasion of Poland | * *Blitzkrieg* – what was it? Why was it so successful?
* How were the *Luftwaffe* and the armoured *Panzer* units essential to this strategy?
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| Battle of France |
| Battle of Britain | * Radar
* Spitfire vs. Messerschmidt
* Bombing of civilians (*Blitz* of London)
* What contributed most to the RAF victory?
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| Battle of the Atlantic | * Lend-Lease Aid – why was it so important to the Allies? How could it be argued that the Battle of the Atlantic was the most important battle of the war?
* U-boats
* Corvettes, Destroyers, and the convoy system
* Long-range fighters (closing the mid-Atlantic Gap)
* Enigma code machine
* How did the Allies eventually gain control of the Atlantic?
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| Battle of El Alamein | * Why was controlling North Africa so important for both the Axis and the Allies?
* What was significant about the Suez Canal?
* How did the lack of reinforcements and supplies affect Rommel’s Afrika Korps?
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| The Italian Campaign | * What characterized the fighting in Italy? Why did it not prove to be the “soft underbelly” of Europe?
* Was this a mobile and dynamic campaign? How useful were tanks and planes?
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| Allied Bombing of Germany | * What is the difference between strategic bombing and carpet/area bombing?
* To what extent did the bombing of Germany influence Allied victory?
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| D-Day and the Invasion of Normandy | * What factors (technology, strategy, luck) were crucial to Allied success on D-Day?
* How was D-Day the beginning of the end for Germany?
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| Operation Barbarossa | * Compare the *blitzkrieg* unleashed against France and Poland with the *blitzkrieg* against the USSR. How successful was Barbarossa? Why contributed to the breakdown of the German offensive?
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| Battle of Stalingrad | * What was the urban fighting like in Stalingrad?
* How much of an advantage was sheer manpower (human resources) to the USSR?
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| Comparing Tanks | * Choose three tanks that you would want on your side in the European theatre.
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| **Pacific Theatre** |
| Pearl Harbour | * Why did the Japanese attack the American Navy?
* How significant were aircraft carriers to the Pacific theatre? Why was it so significant that they weren’t destroyed at Pearl Harbour?
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| Battle of Midway | * How was winning control of the seas important for the Pacific theatre?
* How effective were *kamikaze* attacks?
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| Battle of Leyte Gulf |
| Battle of Guadalcanal | * What was a *bonsai* attack? How effective were they?
* What characterized the fighting on between ground forces in the Pacific theatre?
* What role did tanks play?
* What was “island hopping”? Why would this be a useful strategy for the Allies?
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| Battle of Iwo Jima |
| Battle of Okinawa |
| Allied Bombing of Japan | * Describe the firebombing of Japanese cities – how destructive was it? Was it a useful military strategy for bringing Japan to its knees?
* Japan is an island nation. Compare what the Germans tried to do to Britain in the Atlantic with what the US accomplished by blockading Japan. How crucial was cutting off supplies to Japan to the eventual Allied victory?
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