

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Life in Germany During WWII

19. Measuring Importance II – criteria of comparison [MEAL]

in Writing Exercise #16, we looked at the idea of importance, noted some modifiers of importance ('greatly', 'to a degree' etc.) and realised the need to explain why/how a result was importance.

But how do you MEASURE that importance?

Your teachers may have taught you Partington's taxonomy, or a mnemonic such as: 'GREAT', the '5Rs' or 'NAME'.
If they have, follow their advice.

If they have not specified an approach, however what I would suggest, for this kind of question, is that you should look at the event's/development's results and think about:

- **At The Time:** How impactful/ what did people feel & say about it *at the time*?
- **Legacy Effect:** With the benefit of hindsight, *how long-lasting* were the results/ were they a turning point in events/ do they still affect today

Say I have been asked to write an essay on the importance of various aspects of life in Germany during WWI. The first paragraph is on **RATIONING**, and I plan it as follows:

- **Basic sentence:** It caused shortages.
- **Modifier:** severe (and increasingly so as the war was lost)
- **Effect:** introduced immediately/ after 1942: tighter /1943: clothes/ exchange centres
- **At The Time:** parks converted/ one-pot meal/ black market/ 1945: societal collapse, ration books useless
- **Legacy Effect:** rationing eased after 1946, and ended in 1950

1. Write the first paragraph, on the importance of rationing, based on the planned paragraph above.
2. Using the webpage, plan the 2nd paragraph, on the importance of **ALLIED BOMBING**, using the frame:

- **Basic sentence:**
- **Modifier:**
- **Effect:**
- **At The Time:**
- **Legacy Effect:**

TOP TIP: following this approach to measuring importance – MEAL – will make it easier to COMPARE the importance of two alternative factors.