STUDY GUIDE World War II Test (SSWH18)

Part I: For each of the following, identify the country the person was from and their role in WWII.

1. **Charles de Gaulle**: President of France during WWII

2. **Douglas MacArthur**: Commander in the Pacific during WWII

3. **Winston Churchill**: Prime Minister of Britain during WWII

4. **Franklin Roosevelt**: President of the U.S. at the beginning of WWII

5. **Harry Truman**: President of the U.S. at the end of WWII – Chose to drop atomic bombs

6. **Benito Mussolini**: Fascist dictator of Italy during WWII – wanted to rebuild the Roman Empire

7. **Dwight D. Eisenhower**: Commander in Africa (Operation Torch) and Europe (Operation Overlord) during WWII

8. **Joseph Stalin**: Communist leader of U.S.S.R. during WWII

Part II: Define the following terms and explain their importance during WWII.

1. **Appeasement**: Allowed aggressive actions of Germany to go unchecked

2. **Maginot Line**: Fortifications on the border of France and Germany (Meant to prevent an attack on France by Germany)


4. **The Axis Powers**: Japan, Italy, Germany

5. **“The Big Three”**: Churchill (Britain), Roosevelt (US), Stalin (USSR)

6. **Blitzkrieg**: “Lightening war” → German war tactic → attack with speed and force using planes and tanks

7. **Fascism**: Government controlled by a single political party (focus on nationalism)

8. **Nazism**: Similar to fascism (focus on nationalism and racism)

9. **Final Solution**: Nazi plan for mass extermination of Jews

10. **Ghettos**: Small areas within a city sealed off by barbed-wire and high walls
11. **Kristallnacht**: “Night of Broken Glass” → Nazis looted and smashed windows of Jewish owned stores and destroyed Jewish synagogues

12. **Luftwaffe**: German air force

13. **Kamikaze**: Japanese war tactic → suicide pilots crashed planes into Allied warships

14. **Anti-Semitism**: Discrimination and prejudice against Jews

15. **Genocide**: Mass murder of an entire race (Holocaust/Final Solution is an example)

**Part III: Explain the importance of each of the following events of WWII:**

1. **Hitler’s invasion of Poland in 1939**: Official start of WWII → Britain and France declared war on Germany

2. **Battle of Guadalcanal**: 1st Japanese loss on land → lasted 6 months

3. **Battle of El-Alamein**: U.S. and British forces defeated German and Italian forces in Africa

4. **Battle of Stalingrad**: Turning point in Europe → Soviet’s defeated Germany → had help from the Russian winter

5. **D-Day**: Operation Overlord → Allied victory forced Germany to fight on two fronts → Normandy, France

6. **Yalta Conference**: Divided Germany into 4 zones (“Big Three” came up with the plan)

7. **Munich Conference**: Agreed to give Germany the Sudetenland provided Germany did not expand any further

8. **Potsdam Conference**: Met to discuss the end of the war in the Pacific → warned Japan “Surrender or be destroyed”

9. **Nuremberg Trials**: Tried 24 Nazi leaders for “crimes against humanity”

10. **The dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan**: Hiroshima and Nagasaki (killed thousands instantly and many more by radiation poisoning) → ended WWII

11. **The attack on Pearl Harbor**: Brought the United States into WWII

12. **Japan’s invasion of Manchuria, China**: Japan needed resources (One of the aggressive actions that led to WWII)

13. **(Added) Battle of Britain**: German air raids on Britain – Britain was able to force Hitler to “postpone” air raids because of their advanced radar system
Part IV: Answer the following questions. Include as much detail as possible.

1. Why did Hitler and Stalin form the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact? *(To avoid a 2-front war)*

2. How was the Treaty of Versailles a major cause of WWII? *(Germany was mad and desperate)*

3. What happened to Mussolini after the Allies took control of Sicily? *(He was forced to resign)*

4. In addition to Jews, what other types of people did Hitler seek to eliminate in his Final Solution? *(Gypsies, beggars, mentally and physically handicapped, etc → Hitler wanted to purify the German/Aryan race)*

5. How are Hitler and Mussolini alike? How are they different? *(Fascist leaders; Hitler was racist)*

6. Why did President Truman decide to use the atomic bomb against Japan? *(To bring the war to a quick end)*

7. Why did Hitler and the Nazis blame the Jews for Germany’s problems? *(The Jews were blamed for Germany’s economic problems and Germany’s loss in WWI)*

8. Why were fascist leaders able to gain popularity and power in the 1920s and 1930s? *(Their countries were going through economic depression and people looked to somebody to fix those problems)*